

Guide to Incorporating Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Principles into Purchasing and Procurement Documents

POOL CHEMICALS

Overview

Why are Pool Chemicals a Disposal Issue?

Pool chemicals are considered a hazardous waste. They are used to sanitize, clean or balance the water in swimming pools, hot tubs, and spas. They include chlorinated isocyanurates, lithium hypochlorite, sodium bicarbonate, potassium monopersulfate, hydrogen peroxide, sodium hypochlorite, calcium hypochlorite, and certain ammonium, brominated, copper and silver compounds and mariatic acid.

Pool chemicals may cause skin and eye damage, are toxic to the environment and can react violently when mixed. On average it costs a jurisdiction \$1100 per ton to manage Household Hazardous Waste and pool chemicals are frequently left at publicly funded HHW programs.

How do I Control Disposal of Pool Chemicals?

Follow the mantra “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle”. When possible, procure pool chemicals that are environmentally sensitive, such as enzymes, or switch to a salt water pool. Salt is a common product for maintaining clean pool water. A salt filter requires upfront investment, but it can save you money in the long run. The typical salt water processing system costs around \$1,000, but only \$20 for the entire pool season. Chlorine costs approximately \$50 to \$70 a month during pool season. The following are additional resources for understanding how to “green” pool chemicals:

- Salt Water Pools
<http://1800recycling.com/2010/07/greening-pool-cleaning-chlorine-alternatives/>
- Enzymes for Pools
<http://www.poolcenter.com/enzyme.htm>
- General Tips
<http://www.greenyour.com/lifestyle/leisure-recreation/swimming-pool/tips/use-natural-alternatives-to-pool-chemicals>

Create Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), or “take back” clauses in your procurement contracts that require the manufacturer or producer of the product to take back any left over product after you are finished using it or it is expired.

Extended Producer Responsibility, otherwise known as Product Stewardship, calls for producers, and all entities involved in the product chain, to take responsibility for reducing the impacts of a product and its packaging throughout the entire lifecycle of the product (cradle-to-cradle).

How do I Create Smart Procurement Policies?

- **Review procurement specifications** to remove any provisions that may exclude the procurement of products from vendors who support Pool Chemicals Extended Producer Responsibility.
- **Amend your specifications by adding** Extended Producer Responsibility language into your procurement policies which requires take-back and management services for Pool Chemicals.

Sample Policy Language

Producers must propose a program in which they agree to provide take-back and management services for end-of-life Pool Chemicals at no additional cost to (INSERT JURISDICTION), as this cost should already be incorporated into the original product proposal. This can be accomplished through a variety of contractual provisions whereby the Producer agrees to be responsible for taking back the Pool Chemicals and providing for appropriate reuse or recycling when Procurement no longer needs the Pool Chemicals. Such take-back methods and parameters may include, but are not limited to:

- One-for-one exchange of end-of-life products offered by, or previously purchased from the Producer, upon purchase of new products from said Producer.
- Collection of any end-of-life products by Vendor (or subcontractor) for reuse or recycling, preferably to also include provisions that ensure Vendor will continue the program should a subcontractor no longer be able to perform such activities.
- Requirement that vendor must manage all end-of-life collection of their products at a collection facility provided or funded by Vendor.
- Coupon system for pre-paid take-back at permanent regional collection centers (at no additional cost to Procurement).
- Requirement that vendor must provide information to the agency on available take-back and end-of-life product management options.
- Requirement that product packaging and containers must clearly display information that the product contains hazardous chemicals and on the Vendor's environmentally preferable end-of-life recycling and disposal options for the product and its packaging, as applicable.
- Requirement that vendor must post the aforementioned consumer information on at least one clearly visible sign at the point-of-purchase for the end user of the product.

Sample Proposal Language

End of Life Management 1 [Mandatory]: Vendors must propose a program in which they agree to provide take-back and management services for hazardous pool chemicals at no cost to the Jurisdiction. This can be accomplished through a contractual provision whereby the seller agrees to be responsible for taking back the products and providing for appropriate disposal when the product reaches the end of its useful life. Such take-back methods may include but are not limited to:

1. One-for-one exchange of equipment offered by, or previously purchased from the Vendor, upon purchase of new equipment from said Vendor.
2. Coupon system for pre-paid take-back at permanent regional hazardous waste collection centers. All disposal costs must be paid by the Vendor and not be funded by taxpayer dollars.
3. Agree at time of purchase to pick-up pool chemicals at the end of their useful life at no additional disposal cost to the Jurisdiction.

Vendor should also highlight if they are willing to take-back products other than their own.



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