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SECTION I. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

A. PRODUCTS COVERED UNDER THIS SPECIFICATION

1. Adhesives
2. Floor Finishes
3. Finish Removers
4. Carpet Flooring
5. Resilient Flooring
6. Wood and Bamboo Flooring

B. PROHIBITED PRODUCTS

1. Pursuant to Environment Article, [§§9-1901 – 9-1907](#), the Contractor is prohibited from selling or offering any package or packaging components (e.g. inks, dyes, pigments, adhesives, or any other additives) with lead, cadmium, mercury or hexavalent chromium at concentration levels exceeding 100 parts per million by weight or 0.01%.
2. Pursuant to Environment Article, [§§6-1201 – 6-1204](#), certain products containing more than one-tenth of 1% of pentaBDE, pentabrominated diphenyl ether), octaBDE (octabrominated diphenyl), or decaBDE (decabrominated diphenyl ether) by mass are prohibited.
3. Offered products and product packaging must be asbestos free (contain less than 1% asbestos).
4. Rugs, carpets, carpet pads, and carpet underlayments must not contain intentionally added per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The Bidder/Offeror shall submit written evidence that offered rug and carpet products are compliant with this requirement.

C. PRODUCT REQUIREMENTS

1. Flooring, General
 - a. Flooring products must have at least one of the following certifications:
 - (1) [Cradle to Cradle](#)
 - (2) [Good Environmental Choice Australia \(GECA\) Floor Coverings](#)
 - (3) [Green Circle](#)
 - (4) [NSF/ANSI 332 Sustainability Assessment for Resilient Floor Coverings](#)
 - (5) [NSF/ANSI 140 Sustainability Assessment for Carpet](#)
 - (6) [Tile Council of North America \(TCNA\): ANSI A138.1/Green Squared](#)
 - (7) [International Living Future Institute: Living Product Challenge](#)
 - b. Flooring products must have one of the following VOC certifications:
 - (1) [GREENGUARD Gold](#)
 - (2) [SCS Indoor Advantage Gold](#)
 - (3) [FloorScore](#)
 - (4) [Blue Angel](#)
 - (5) [Carpet and Rug Institute Green Label Plus](#)
 - c. All flooring products, floor coverings, including backings, coatings, adhesives, and other components must not contain:
 - (1) Total alkylphenols, alkylphenol ethoxylates, or related compounds above 100 ppm;
 - (2) Any antimicrobials, including antimicrobials or preservatives used to preserve or protect the final product;

- (3) Benzene;
- (4) Total bisphenol A or its structural analogs above 1000 ppm;
- (5) Cadmium;
- (6) Epichlorohydrin-based formulations;
- (7) Formaldehyde or formaldehyde-based formulations;
- (8) Flame retardants above 100 ppm;
- (9) Hexavalent Chromium;
- (10) Unreacted ('free') isocyanates;
- (11) Lead;
- (12) Mercury;
- (13) Nickel;
- (14) Deliberately engineered nanomaterials;
- (15) Organotins;
- (16) PFCs;
- (17) Per- or poly-fluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS);
- (18) Persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic chemicals (PBTs) above 1000 ppm;
- (19) Intentionally added chemicals listed on California's Proposition 65 at levels that would require a warning label in the State of California;
- (20) Chlorinated polymers such as polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or vinyl;
- (21) Ortho-phthalates;
- (22) Recycled tires;
- (23) Synthetic styrene butadiene latex; or
- (24) Volatile methycyclosiloxanes D4, D5, or D6 above 100 ppm.

2. Broadloom Carpet and Carpet Tile

- a. Must not contain Bitumin.
- b. Must not contain caprolactum above the Carpet and Rug Institute's Green Label Plus Emission Factor (EF) level.
- c. Must not contain dyes and pigments prohibited in Appendix A of the Blue Angel Low-Emission Textile Floor Coverings DE-UZ 128.
- d. Must not contain polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) above 0.5 ppm.
- e. Must not contain coal fly ash.
- f. Must not contain polyurethane backing.
- g. Must have at least 95% of the face fiber made of a single synthetic polymer.
- h. Must have face fiber that is solution-dyed.
- i. Carpet tile specifically must have a minimum of 40% recycled content by weight of the entire product, of which at least 5% of the recycled content shall be post-consumer.

3. Adhesives

- a. The use of mechanical fasteners and attachments when installing flooring shall be prioritized. When mechanical options are not available, adhesives may be used if they:
 - (1) Are certified by one of the following third-party certifiers:
 - i [Cradle to Cradle](#)
 - ii [Green Seal](#)
 - iii [UL Ecologo](#)
 - iv [Carpet and Rug Institute \(CRI\) Green Label Plus](#)
 - v [FloorScore](#)

- vi [Blue Angel for Low-Emission Floor Covering Adhesives](#)
- vii [SCS Indoor Advantage Gold](#); or
- viii [UL GREENGUARD](#); and

- (2) Do not contain chemicals that are listed by the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics (AOEC) as an asthmagen. The AOEC list can be accessed at <http://www.aoecdata.org/expcodelookup.aspx>.

D. END OF LIFE REQUIREMENTS

- 1. Contractors must notify purchasers of any available take-back service for reuse, refurbishment, and/or recycling for purchased and previously purchased materials, including information on how to utilize the service. This information shall be made available to the purchasing State agency at time of purchase through written or online documentation.

END OF SECTION I.

SECTION II. RECOMMENDATIONS

A. PRODUCT RECOMMENDATIONS

The State recommends:

1. Flooring that can be installed with nails or other mechanical fasteners.
2. Flooring that contains a minimum of 50% total recycled content.
Note: Tiles with non-specific post-consumer recycled content must be avoided as the content may include old cathode ray tubes which contain high concentrations of lead.
3. Flooring that contains 100% recyclable materials made by manufacturers that have a third-party verified take-back program; eligible products must be labeled accordingly.
4. Carpet products that prolong the useful life of the carpet and reduce waste generation such as hard-backed carpet tile and loop-pile products.

B. INSTALLATION AND REMOVAL

1. Flooring installer shall pre-ventilate carpet by unpacking and unrolling it to air-out in a well-ventilated, uninhabited space for a minimum of eight (8) hours (but preferably 3 days) prior to installation. The installer shall also ventilate during and after installation for a minimum of three (3) days in total.
2. Flooring installer shall pre-ventilate hard surface flooring in a well-ventilated, uninhabited space for a minimum of eight (8) hours (but preferably 2 days) prior to installation. If adhesives/sealants are present, the installer shall ventilate after installation is complete for a minimum of eight (8) hours (but preferably 2 days).
3. If removing old flooring products, the Contractor shall work with the building supervisor or designated representative to look for opportunities to trade-in, reuse, donate, or recycle the product.

C. PACKAGING RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Where the Contractor uses packaging in addition to manufacturer packaging, the Contractor is encouraged to select packaging that minimizes or eliminates the use of disposable containers and/or incorporates recycled content and is easily recyclable. The Contractor shall avoid the use of polystyrene foam packaging (e.g., peanuts) and other difficult-to-recycle packaging materials. Where appropriate, Contractor packaging using reusable crates or reusable pallets is preferred over boxed packaging.
2. For corrugated cardboard packaging (also known as containerboard packaging), the Contractor is encouraged to use versions that contain a minimum of 25% by weight of post-consumer materials, which is the minimum post-consumer content level for packaging specified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines](#).

D. SHIPPING RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To promote fuel efficiency and reduce greenhouse gases and air pollution, the Contractor is encouraged to use a SmartWay Transport/Carrier Partner for the shipment or transport of products. A list of SmartWay Transport partners can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/smartway/smartway-partner-list>.

END OF SECTION II.

SECTION III. SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

A. BID/PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Bidders/Offerors shall provide the following documents with their bid or proposal:

1. Proof of applicable required certifications listed in Section I.
 - a. This may include a link to:
 - (1) the certifier's website;
 - (2) the [UL SPOT](#) website; or
 - (3) the [Ecomedes](#) website.
2. Description of applicable sustainable practices related to the products or services provided.

B. REFERENCES

A Bidder or Offeror shall include the sustainable practices it employed during the contract period for each listed reference.

END OF SECTION III.

SECTION IV. ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING LANGUAGE

A. ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING

The State of Maryland is committed to purchasing environmentally preferable products and services (EPPs). Maryland's State Finance & Procurement Article §14-410 defines environmentally preferable purchasing as "the procurement or acquisition of goods and services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing goods or services that serve the same purpose."

Accordingly, Bidders/Offerors are strongly encouraged to offer EPPs to fulfill this contract, to the greatest extent practicable.

B. MARYLAND'S GREEN PURCHASING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Contractor shall submit quarterly sales data to the State over the life of this contract. This information must include details about the recycled content, third-party sustainability certifications, and other environmental attributes of products and services provided under the contract.

To facilitate consistent reporting, the Contractor must use a standardized Vendor Green Sales Report template for the quarterly reporting, which the state will provide.

By submitting a response to this solicitation, the Bidder/Offeror acknowledges a commitment to submitting the quarterly Vendor Green Sales Report to the State. Any vendor who fails to submit the quarterly report may be out of compliance and, therefore, may receive a cure notice from the Procurement Officer.

C. ENVIRONMENTAL CLAIMS

All environmental benefit claims made by the Contractor concerning products or services offered on this contract must be consistent with the [Federal Trade Commission's Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims](#).

END OF SECTION IV.

SECTION V. LEGISLATION, STATUTES, AND REGULATIONS

A. FOR PROCUREMENT OFFICERS AND AGENCIES

1. **Environmentally Preferable Purchasing** (COMAR [21.11.07.09](#))
“All procurement agencies shall purchase environmentally preferable products and services unless purchasing environmentally preferable products and services would limit or supersede any requirements under any provision of law or result in the purchase of products and services that:
(1) Do not perform adequately for the intended use;
(2) Exclude adequate competition; or
(3) Are not available at a reasonable price in a reasonable period of time.”
2. **Mercury and Products that Contain Mercury** (COMAR [21.11.07.07](#))
“All procurement agencies shall give a preference under this regulation to procuring products and equipment that are mercury-free. If mercury-free products and equipment that meet the agency's product performance requirements are not commercially available, the procurement agency shall give preference under this regulation to products containing the least amount of mercury necessary to meet performance requirements.”
3. **Volatile Organic Compounds from Adhesives and Sealants** (COMAR [26.11.35.04](#))
See Table 1 (COMAR 26.11.35.04.G)- VOC Content Limits for Adhesives, Sealants, Adhesive Primers, Sealant Primers, and Adhesives Applied to Particular Substrates.
4. **Low Noise Emission Products** (State Finance and Procurement Article [§14-403](#))
"To the extent practicable, each unit of State government shall buy or lease for use by the State government supplies that are the quietest available supplies. Supplies that are certified as low-noise-emission products under the federal Noise Control Act of 1972 are considered to meet [this requirement]."
5. **Maryland High Performance Buildings Act** (State Finance and Procurement Article [§3-602.1](#))
To the extent practicable, the State shall employ green building technologies when constructing or renovating a State building not subject to this section; and (2) high performance buildings shall meet the criteria and standards established under the "High Performance Green Building Program" adopted by the Maryland Green Building Council.

"Major renovation" means the renovation of a building where: (i) the building shell is to be reused for the new construction; (ii) the heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) electrical, and plumbing systems are to be replaced; and (iii) the scope of the renovation is 7,500 square feet or greater.

B. FOR CONTRACTORS, BIDDERS, AND OFFERORS

1. **Verifying Environmental Claims** (State Finance and Procurement Article [§14-410](#))
“A bidder or offeror for a procurement contract shall certify in writing that any claims of environmental attributes made relating to a product or service are consistent with the Federal Trade Commission’s Guidelines for the Use of Environmental Marketing Terms.”
2. **Limitations and Prohibitions on Heavy Metals in Packaging** (Environment Article [§9-1902\(a\)-\(d\)](#))
“(a) Except as provided in §§ 9-1903 and 9-1904 of this subtitle, on or after July 1, 1993, a manufacturer or distributor may not sell or offer for sale or for promotional purposes any package or packaging component or any product in a package or packaging component to which any of the following was intentionally added during manufacture or distribution:
1) Lead;

- 2) Cadmium;
 - 3) Mercury; or
 - 4) Hexavalent chromium...”
3. **Limitations on Hazardous Substances** (Environment Article, [§§ 6-1202 - 6-1202.1](#))
A person may not manufacture, process, sell, or distribute in the State a new product or flame-retardant part of a new product that contains more than one-tenth of 1% of pentaBDE (pentabrominated diphenyl ether) or octaBDE (octabrominated diphenyl) by mass.
- A person may not manufacture, lease, sell or distribute for sale or lease in the State electrical or electronic equipment that contain more than one-tenth of 1% of decaBDE (decabrominated diphenyl ether) by mass.
4. **Shipping/Transport Requirements and Recommendations** Idling Law (Transportation Article [§22-402\(c\)\(3\)](#))
“A motor vehicle engine may not be allowed to operate for more than 5 consecutive minutes when the vehicle is not in motion, except as follows:
- i. When a vehicle is forced to remain motionless because of traffic conditions or mechanical difficulties over which the operator has no control;
 - ii. When it is necessary to operate heating and cooling or auxiliary equipment installed on the vehicle;
 - iii. To bring the vehicle to the manufacturer's recommended operating temperature; or
 - iv. When it is necessary to accomplish the intended use of the vehicle.”

END OF SECTION V.