

Environmentally Preferred Sourcing Program

EPS Toolkit: Chemical policy

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Vizient™ is committed to helping hospitals create an environment free from the hazards chemicals pose to humans, animals and the environment. To that end, we operate according to a chemical policy statement to identify and address hazardous products contained in contracted products and to support the market for safer alternatives.

To advance an economy with healthy chemical production and use, Vizient urges responsible companies and their supply chains to adopt and implement the following four guiding principles (as developed by the business nongovernmental organization (NGO) working group on chemical policy reform):

1. **Know and disclose product chemistry.** Manufacturers will identify the substances associated with and used in a product across its life cycle and will increase the transparency of the chemical constituents in their products as appropriate, including the public disclosure of chemicals of high concern.
2. **Assess and avoid hazards.** Manufacturers will determine the hazardous characteristics of chemical constituents and formulations in their products, use chemicals with inherently low hazard potential, prioritize chemicals of high concern for elimination, minimize exposure when hazards cannot be prevented, and redesign products and processes to avoid the use and/or generation of hazardous chemicals. Buyers will work with their suppliers to achieve this principle.
3. **Commit to continuous improvement.** Manufacturers will establish corporate governance structures, policies and practices that create a framework for the regular review of product and process chemistry. Buyers will promote the use of chemicals, processes and products with inherently lower hazard potential.

4. **Support public policies and industry standards.**

Manufacturers and buyers will support public policies and industry standards that advance the implementation of the three previously stated principles, assure that comprehensive hazard data is available for chemicals on the market, take action to eliminate or reduce known hazards, and promote a greener economy, including support for green chemistry research and education.

We encourage member organizations to request chemistry data from suppliers and prioritize chemicals of high concern for elimination. To aid in this effort, Vizient developed a list of purchasing criteria that avoids contracting for products containing specific materials, except where no suitable, cost-effective alternatives exist.

These materials include:

- Brominated flame retardants
- Glutaraldehyde
- Bisphenol-A (BPA)
- Halogenated flame-retardants and other halogenated organic chemicals
- mercury
- Phthalates (including DEHP)
- Polyvinyl chloride (PVC)
- Latex

Vizient supports initiatives to disclose product chemistry, assess and avoid hazards, promote the use of chemicals, processes and products with inherently lower hazard potential, and advocate for public policies and industry standards that advance a greener economy.

The Vizient Environmentally Preferred Sourcing (EPS) Program offers members supply and service cost savings through more than 36,000 supplier agreements. EPS suppliers have verified EPS attributes and provide products that can support members' sustainability objectives. This toolkit is a resource to help members create or enhance their sustainability programs.

As the nation's largest member-driven health care performance improvement company, Vizient provides network-powered insights in the critical areas of clinical, operational, and supply chain performance and empowers members to deliver exceptional, cost-effective care.



To learn more, contact us at eps@vizientinc.com.