



Courier Services – Suggested Environmental Specifications and Disclosure Questions

Sample Specification

- 1. Delivery of Products and Services – Idling Prohibited:** Vehicles and/or diesel fuel trucks shall not idle at the time and location of the delivery to health care facilities for more than five minutes. [GPO/Hospital] requests that vendors utilize practices to reduce fuel consumption and emission discharge, including turning off trucks and vehicles during delivery of products to [hospitals]. Exceptions to this requirement include when a vehicle is making deliveries and associated power is necessary; when the engine is used to provide power in another device, and if required for proper warm-up and cool-down of the engine. [GPO/Hospital] has [an interest/a **commitment**] to reduce unnecessary fuel emissions in communities served. [GPO/Hospital] intends to improve air quality by reducing unnecessary air pollution from idling vehicles. Limiting car and truck idling supports cleaner air, healthier work environments, the efficient use of resources, the public’s enjoyment of hospital properties and programs, conservation of natural resources, and good stewardship practices.
- 2. Environmentally Preferable Products:** {GPO/Hospital} prefers the use of products that are environmentally preferable and affords healthier communities. Courier services are encouraged to use environmentally preferable products as part of their courier services, such as re-refined motor oil and lead-free wheel weights. Wheel weights shall contain no more than 0.1 percent lead by weight.ⁱ
- 3. Alternative Fueled Vehicles:** [GPO/Hospital] is committed to reducing the impact on the environment and in the communities served and prefers the use of vehicles that have a reduced impact on the environment, including the use of alternative fueled vehicles.*

Suggested Environmental Disclosure Questions:

1. Please describe how your courier services minimize the impacts to the environment.

2. Does your company have an environmental policy? (Yes/No)
3. Does your company have anti-idling policy to reduce emissions to the environment? (Yes/No)
4. Is your company a member of EPA's SmartWay Transport Program? (Yes/No/NA)
5. Does your company use alternative fueled vehicles* (AFV)? (Yes/No) If yes, indicate what percentage of fleet is alternatively fueled.
6. Does your company use re-refined motor oil in vehicles? (Yes/No) For more information, visit <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/usedoil/rerefined/>.
7. Lead weights have typically been used to balance wheels on vehicles. Because these frequently fall onto the roadway and are pulverized by traffic, they are increasingly understood to represent a public-health issue and are receiving increasing attention from regulators. The European Union banned lead wheel weights in 2005. Lead wheel balancing weights remain one of the largest ongoing uses and releases of lead into the environment in the United States. While some progress has been made internationally in limiting the use of lead for wheel balancing, the vast majority of vehicles in the U.S still have lead-based wheel weights.ⁱⁱ Alternatives include zinc, steel and steel shot encased in plastic. Does your company require the use lead-free wheel weights in courier vehicles? (Yes/No/NA)

***Alternative Fueled Vehicles:**

“Alternative Fuels” – EPA definition: Alternative fuels are derived from resources other than petroleum. Some are produced domestically, reducing our dependence on imported oil, and some are derived from renewable sources.

Types of AVF:

- **COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS (CNG), DEDICATED OR BI-FUEL:** Vehicles with a dedicated CNG fuel system shall have a “driving range” of at least 150 miles. Vehicles with a bi-fuel system (Gasoline-CNG) shall have a “driving range” of at least 75 miles on CNG. CNG tanks located in the bed of pickup trucks shall be the low profile type (dual tanks), if available, to allow for installation of a toolbox directly over the tanks.
- **PROPANE ALSO CALLED LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG), DEDICATED OR BI-FUEL:** Vehicles with a dedicated LPG fuel system shall have a “driving range” of at least 150

miles. Vehicles with a bi-fuel system Gasoline-LPG) shall have a “driving range” of at least 75 miles on LPG.

Propane tanks located in the bed of pickup trucks shall be the low profile type, (dual tanks) if available, to allow for installation of a toolbox directly over the tanks.

- **FLEXIBLE FUEL E-85 (ETHANOL):** Vehicles shall use a fuel system designed to operate with any mixture of unleaded gasoline and an ethyl alcohol based fuel up to 85% alcohol.
- **BIO-DIESEL:** Vehicles shall use a fuel system designed to operate with a blend of petro-diesel fuel and bio-diesel fuel derived from vegetable oils and animal fats and meeting the requirements of ASTM D6751(applies to B-100) and purchased from a BQ-9000 (or equal) accredited producer and supplier.
 - B-20 (20% bio-diesel fuel)
 - B-50 (50% bio-diesel fuel)
 - B-100 (100% bio-diesel fuel)
- **BATTERY ELECTRIC:** Vehicles shall operate solely by use of a battery or battery pack, or that is powered primarily through the use of an electric battery or battery pack but uses a flywheel or capacitor that stores energy produced by the electric motor or through regenerative braking to assist in vehicle operation. Vehicles shall be certified to zero-emission standards and capable of operation on freeways with a minimum UDDS ZEV range of 75 miles.
- **FUEL CELL:** No specific requirements at this time.

Practice Greenhealth © 2012

Practice Greenhealth thanks its EPP Supporters for their contributions to the creation of this resource.



ⁱ California Health and Safety Code 25215.6, <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/PollutionPrevention/ToxicsInProducts/leadwheelweights.cfm>

ⁱⁱ Lead-free Wheel Weights, A Project of the Ecology Center, www.leadfreewheels.org
