

Draft Specification for “General Purpose Cleaners”

April 2021

Background

This is an update/revision of the original specification. Over the years, laws, regulations, and green procurement specifications have been established for public entities such as State agencies and New York public schools to consider healthier and environmentally sustainable cleaning products. This is due to the nature of the ingredients in cleaning products covered by this specification. Guidance for the creation of this specification was drawn from the New York State Green Cleaning Law (New York State Education Law Section 409-i), which mandates “green cleaning products” for use in schools. New York State has also followed guidance from federal regulatory agencies and procurement standards such as those found in Massachusetts’s green cleaning contract “Environmentally Preferable Cleaning Products, Programs, Equipment and Supplies Statewide Contract.”

This update includes new language referring to the recently passed New York State Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) Article 35, which restricts the amount of 1,4 dioxane in cleaning products. 1,4-dioxane is a byproduct of the ethoxylation process used to make surfactants and is classified as a carcinogen under the National Toxicology Program. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) considers 1,4-dioxane to be a residual concern to the environment. See Article 35 of the ECL for 1,4-dioxane concentration limits and dates of effect.