

Draft Specification for “Hand Cleaners and Personal Care Cleansing Products”

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, to consider healthier and environmentally sustainable hand hygiene and personal care cleansing products. This is due to the nature of the ingredients found in these products covered by this specification. Guidance for the creation of this specification was drawn from federal regulatory agencies, such as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), 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 37, which restricts the amount of 1,4 dioxane in hand cleaners and personal care 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 37 of the ECL for 1,4-dioxane concentration limits and dates of effect. The update also reflects revisions within the standard certification programs for hand cleaners and personal care products and the FDA monographs for consumer antiseptic hand washes and hand rubs.