

August 28, 2001), EPA is considering revising its approach to nylon carpet.<sup>1</sup>

One possible approach, suggested by several commenters, is for EPA to issue recommendations for the nylon carpet face fiber and the nylon carpet backing as one product. Recommending recovered materials content levels for the entire carpet product (*i.e.*, carpet facing and backing combined) may give manufacturers more flexibility to incorporate recovered materials into nylon carpet products, while still realizing a significant environmental benefit. A number of commenters also suggested that EPA issue

recommendations that distinguish among various nylon carpet products, such as performance broadloom, new carpet tiles (*i.e.*, modular), and refurbished carpet tiles (modular). EPA believes there may be merit to issuing recommendations in this manner, considering the technical and structural differences in these products. EPA might also consider recommending total recovered content levels, and not postconsumer content levels, for traditional broadloom carpet.

The table below shows possible revisions to EPA's draft RMAN recommendations for nylon carpet. EPA

will take into consideration this and other possible approaches if it issues final RMAN recommendations for nylon carpet. The recovered materials content ranges shown in the table were developed after review of all of the recovered materials content ranges provided by commenters, whether commenters suggested recovered materials content ranges for face fiber and backing separately or recovered materials content ranges for face fiber and backing combined.

POSSIBLE RECOMMENDED RECOVERED MATERIALS CONTENT LEVELS FOR NYLON CARPET<sup>1</sup>

| Product   | Material (component into which the material will get recycled)                                  | % Postconsumer content <sup>3,4</sup> | % Total recovered content <sup>3,4</sup> |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Nylon carpet (performance broadloom) <sup>2</sup> ..... | Nylon (fiber face) Old carpets <sup>5</sup> (structured backing)<br>Vinyl (structured backing). | 8–25                                  | 30–60                                    |
| Nylon carpet (new modular) .....                        | Nylon (fiber face) Old carpets <sup>5</sup> (structured backing)<br>Vinyl (structured backing). | 8–25                                  | 30–60                                    |
| Nylon carpet (refurbished modular) .....                | Old carpet tiles .....  | 90–100                                | 90–100                                   |

<sup>1</sup> These recommendations would not preclude a procuring agency from purchasing carpet made from other materials such as acrylic or wool. They would simply require that procuring agencies, when purchasing nylon carpet, purchase it with recovered materials when it meets applicable specification and performance requirements.

<sup>2</sup> Performance nylon carpet products, which may include broadloom and modular carpet (tiles), are structured back products that have secondary backings made of urethane, polypropylene, vinyl, or a "hot melt" coating. Some of the materials used in this secondary backing may be recovered. Therefore, the recovered material content ranges here are inclusive of both the fiber face and backing.

<sup>3</sup> EPA's carpet recommendations are expressed as percentage, by weight, of the entire carpet.

<sup>4</sup> EPA's recommendations would exclude materials that serve as fillers and binding agents (*e.g.*, coal fly ash) as counting toward the recovered material content requirement for this designation.

<sup>5</sup> Old carpets may contain a variety of materials, including, but not limited to, nylon, polyurethane (PUR), polypropylene (PP), polyethylene (PE), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), latex, vinyl, and fiberglass.

## VI. What Comments Is EPA Requesting?

EPA requests comments, including additional supporting documentation and information, on the following topics, as well as any other topics that commenters want to address: (1) The recovered materials content ranges (both postconsumer content and total recovered materials content); (2) the delineation of carpet products (*e.g.*, broadloom vs. modular/tile, and traditional broadloom vs. performance broadloom); (3) any quantifiable data to address the availability of postconsumer and total recovered content nylon for use in nylon face fiber and/or backing; (4) whether including nylon carpet in the CPG is inconsistent with environmental goals established in other industry environmental programs such as the Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE); and (5) whether the agency should or should not recommend recycled content for traditional broadloom carpets and, if it does, whether both postconsumer and total recovered content recommendations

should be made. EPA requests that any comments submitted regarding recycled content include recommended recycled content ranges and some rationale or justification for those recommended ranges.

Dated: July 8, 2003.

**Matthew Hale,**

*Deputy Director, Office of Solid Waste.*

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## EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

### [Public Notice 55]

### Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposes Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Export-Import Bank of the United States.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Export-Import Bank, as part of its continuing effort to reduce

paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on the proposed information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before September 15, 2003 to be assured of consideration.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct requests for additional information to Angela Beckham, Export-Import Bank of the U.S., 811 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20571, (202) 565-3418. Direct comments to David Rostker, Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information And Regulatory Affairs, NEOB Room 10202, Washington, DC 20503.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Titles and Form Numbers:* Application for Medium-Term Insurance or Guarantee EIB Form 03-02.

*OMB Number:* New.

*Type of Review:* New collection.

*Need and Use:* The information requested enables the applicant to

<sup>1</sup> The Agency will respond to all comments on nylon carpet, including those submitted on the

August 28, 2001 proposed CPG IV and draft RMAN

IV, when it makes a final decision regarding the CPG and RMAN for nylon carpet.