

items used to remove built up asphalt from machinery, or they can be used as a pre-spray for dump trucks to prevent sticking of asphalt to truck beds.

Hard surface cleaners include general purpose formulated items for the removal of greases and other dirt from metal, tile, glass, plastics, and hard surfaces. Glass cleaners are generally formulated items for the removal of dirt from glass surfaces with minimal or no film residues. Food machinery cleaners are formulated items used to remove accumulated greases and soils from metal and non-metal parts of food machinery (meat saws and slicers, vent fans, ovens, cooking vats, etc.), and should be approved for incidental food contact or certified by the manufacturer as safe. Textile cleaners are formulated items for the removal of heavy stains from textiles prior to institutional cleaning (dry cleaning or laundry). Graffiti removers are formulated items for the removal of graffiti (spray paint, markers, crayons, etc.) from metal and or wood surfaces. Concrete, stone, and masonry cleaners are formulated items that remove oil, grease, soot, and other soils from concrete driveways/sidewalks, stone, and masonry.

Hand cleaners and soaps are formulated items for the removal of heavy greases and dirt from skin. Laundry aids include stain removers and pre-washes for the treatment of stains on fabrics. Wood cleaners and polishes are formulated items for cleaning and polishing of wood surfaces and furniture.

Some biobased solvents are used as carrier solvents for paints, inks, lotions, insect repellents, polishes, and other uses.

Proposed Minimum Content—Solvents and Cleaners Category

To be included in this solvents and cleaners category, the minimum biobased content of each item must be:

Items	Minimum biobased content (%)
Formulated product	50
Neat product (concentrate)	100

Sorbents Category

Biobased sorbents are materials that are used to take up and hold liquids. A wide range of agricultural and forest materials can be used as biobased sorbents, including but not limited to wool, cotton and cotton linters, vegetable starch, kenaf, and agricultural residues such as corn stover and peanut hulls. The range of items produced

includes products to collect oil and other environmental spills, collect blood and other fluids in medicinal and surgical applications, collect urine in diapers and incontinence products, and for animal bedding (including wood chips).

Sorbents can be placed in items such as containers, packages, gauzes, or other carriers to create a sorbent system. This aids in handling of the sorbent and application of the sorbent at a location to achieve greatest benefit. The sorbent carrier may be of a material other than a biobased item. For the purposes of this category, the biobased material is the "active" part of the sorbent system. Biobased items in this category must address the function of the entire product, e.g., the sorbent itself as well as the casing or framework holding or enclosing the sorbent.

Plant starch contained within a cotton bag is an illustration of a sorbent system. While the plant starch is not the end product, it is the "active" ingredient in these sorbent systems. The USDA Agricultural Research Service developed a patented sorbent gel that would be a sorbent system. The gel is capable of absorbing hundreds of times its own weight in water and has been used in such items as seed coatings, wound dressings, automobile fuel filters, plastic barriers used at construction sites, and, most notably, in disposable diapers.

Proposed Minimum Content—Sorbents Category

The biobased sorbents product category is organized as two broad groups of items: sorbents and sorbent systems. A sorbent system involves the use of a sorbent (active ingredient) in combination with a non-active carrier or an active carrier. For example a disposable diaper is a carrier for a specialized absorbent material, which is the sorbent. To be included in the sorbents category, the minimum biobased content of each item must be:

Items	Minimum biobased content (%)
Sorbents	90
Sorbent systems	75

Plant and Vegetable Inks Category

Here the category and the item are one and the same. Plant and vegetable oils can be used to make a wide variety of biobased inks. Over 90 percent of all U.S. daily newspapers use at least some soy ink, made by blending soybean oil with pigments, resins, and waxes to

make either black or color ink. Unlike petroleum inks, soy ink does not release VOCs into the atmosphere upon drying. Newspapers printed with soy ink are easier to recycle.

In 1994, the U.S. Congress enacted the "Vegetable Ink Printing Act of 1994," Public Law 103-348, mandating that, when technologically feasible and price competitive, Federal lithographic printing be performed using ink containing minimum percentages of plant and vegetable oil. Plant and vegetable inks are not considered to be in mature markets because plant and vegetable inks did not have significant national market penetration prior to 1972.

Biobased inks can be provided in black and a variety of colors. These inks can be used to print a broad range of documents, including newspapers, magazines, brochures, business cards, and reports. The inks can also be used with a variety of specialty applications including stencils, textiles, labeling, as well as pens and other writing instruments.

Proposed Minimum Content—Plant and Vegetable Inks Category

To be included in the inks category, the minimum biobased content of each item must be:

Items by application	Minimum biobased content (%)
News inks—black	40
News inks—color	30
Sheet-fed inks	20
Forms inks	20
Heat-set inks	10
Specialty inks	20

VI. Plan for Future Development of Voluntary Labeling Program

Section 9002(h) directs USDA to establish a voluntary labeling program for biobased items. USDA will address requirements for the labeling program in a future rulemaking. However, in order to signal USDA thinking in this regard, the potential parameters of the labeling program are described here.

It is anticipated the labeling program will build on the requirements to qualify for preferred procurement of biobased items discussed in this current proposed regulation. Biobased products that qualify for preferred procurement would be eligible to qualify for use of the "U.S.D.A. Certified Biobased Product" label. Two additional criteria would determine eligibility to use the label. First, an analysis of life cycle costs and health benefits of the product would be required using NIST's BEES