The Swedish defence requirements for materiel procurement: Content of chemical substances in chemical products, goods and construction materials

Purpose

This document is a tool used by the Swedish defence sector when stating environmental requirements for procurement. By stating environmental requirements during procurement the Swedish defence sector will contribute to reduce the environmental impact. A significant proportion of this environmental impact originates from the substances in materiel and the chemical products use for the operation and maintenance of materiel. This document is the English translation of the Swedish original document.

Background

Sweden has set 16 national environmental quality objectives. One of these is “A non-toxic environment: The environment shall be free from substances and metals that have been created or recovered from society and can threaten human health or biodiversity”. This objective will be achieved in a number of ways. These include the phasing-out of especially toxic substances in different stages up to the year 2015.

It’s the Swedish National Chemicals Inspectorate that answers for this objective. Their work can be followed on the website: www.kemi.se. The defence sector has objectives linked to the environmental quality objectives that include minimising the use of dangerous chemical products.

By the meeting in 2004-01-29 in the defence sector’s environment delegation an agreement between representatives from the sector’s authorities was made to apply this document in the work of each authority.

Specification for the content of chemical substances

As far as possible, all materiel supplied to Swedish defence shall be free from substances that are toxic, carcinogenic, allergenic, affect genetic material, reproduction, are environmentally hazardous, affect the climate and the ozone layer (see annex 1, tables 1-3).
Examples of these substances are found in the list of examples (annex 2 to this document). The first part takes up substances that are prohibited by law or which shall be used very restrictively for other reasons. These substances can only be used in products if particular reasons exist to reach a required function or due to the nature of the operations. Any usage shall be well motivated and risk assessed.

Part two takes up substances whose use is limited by law and substances, which, because of their properties, are undesirable in products that the Swedish defence sector procures. These substances can only be used in products if special reasons exist to reach a required function or due to the nature of the operations. Any usage shall be well motivated and risk assessed.

It’s always the latest update of this document that’s valid. It can be found at www.fmv.se.

This document doesn’t cover all of the chemical legislation. For example further demands are put in the legislation on cosmetic- and hygiene products, biocides, provisions, provisions package, other package, pharmaceutical preparations and precursors.

It is important to observe that this document does not absolve the supplier from his responsibility to have sufficient competence in and responsibility for his products. The supplier shall specify as early as the bidding stage all dangerous substances that may be Guidelines for requirements on suppliers. The Swedish defence sector shall in procurements affected by these criteria state requirements concerning chemical substances on suppliers and materiel. In development projects this document and the Swedish Environmental Code’s product choice principle shall be applied.

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