

## Backgrounder

### Sustainable Procurement

The Epson Group seeks to create and provide products that are in harmony with the environment while ensuring that their suppliers comply with laws, regulations and social norms. It has strict policies regarding the business practices of its suppliers as well as the procurement of raw materials and paper.

Epson requires that its suppliers create a system that identifies and remains compliant with all applicable laws, regulations and codes, including any amendments. It also requires that its vendors adhere to Epson's policies on human rights and do not engage in child or forced labour. To ensure that they are complying with these standards, Epson has been carrying out regular audits on its suppliers since 2006.

Epson has also laid down specific requirements for its suppliers regarding the material they source. In 2003, it established a Green Purchasing Standard for Production Materials regarding the procurement of raw materials. Any vendor supplying a member of the Epson Group must sign this agreement prior to engaging in any activities with the company. The terms of the agreement require vendors to ensure that banned substances are not included in its products and to establish a proper waste disposal programme.

To ensure the legality, sustainability and environmental safety of the paper products it procures, Epson manages its supply chain from the immediate supplier all the way back to the forest. When establishing its paper procurement policies, Epson solicited the cooperation of WWF for professional advice on issues such as the approach to forest protection and the global forest certification program.

Epson's paper procurement policy, takes into consideration the social, economic and environmental sustainability of the forest, and addresses the following topics:

1. Effective use of used paper and other recycled pulp
2. If virgin pulp is used as a raw material, procurement should confirm the following:
  - The pulp shall be legal according to the forestry laws of the country in which it is produced, and there shall be no violations of the laws, etc. of the nations or regions with authority at all stages, including production, extraction, processing, shipping and export.
  - The raw material wood shall be produced in a sustainable manner.
  - The materials shall not contain "chemical prohibited from inclusion in products" as designated by Epson
  - The production plants for the paper products procured shall be managed in environmentally responsible ways

As a result of these policies, Epson has maintained a green purchasing rate of 100% since 2004 and is continuing to work comprehensively on maintaining the sustainability of its supply chain.

**For Further Information see:**

**Seiko Epson Corporation:**

[http://www.epson.co.jp/e/company/company\\_index.htm](http://www.epson.co.jp/e/company/company_index.htm)

**Corporate Profile:**

<http://www.epson.co.jp/e/company/pdf/epson2008.pdf>

**Sustainability Report:**

[http://www.epson.co.jp/e/community/sr/2007/pdf/2007\\_en\\_sr.pdf](http://www.epson.co.jp/e/community/sr/2007/pdf/2007_en_sr.pdf)

**Zero Emissions:**

[http://www.epson.co.jp/e/newsroom/envi\\_news/0712csr.pdf](http://www.epson.co.jp/e/newsroom/envi_news/0712csr.pdf)

**Green Procurement Guidelines:**

<http://www.epson.co.jp/e/community/procurement.htm>

**Paper Procurement Standard:**

[http://www.epson.co.jp/e/community/pdf/paper\\_procurement.pdf](http://www.epson.co.jp/e/community/pdf/paper_procurement.pdf)