

GEMS Awareness Training for Contractors

All federal agencies are required by Executive Order to implement an Environmental Management System, reduce waste, reduce quantity of toxic and hazardous chemical and materials acquired, used or disposed of, increase diversion of solid waste by recycling, and use sustainable environmental practices (acquisition of bio-based, environmentally preferable, energy-efficient, water-efficient and recycled-content products).

The Department of Veterans Affairs has chosen the term GEMS to refer to the department's Green Environmental Management System. Green Environmental Management Systems have been shown to be a valuable tool to lessen negative impacts on the environment, and create more efficient, cost effective means of providing service to our veterans. **The GEMS program emphasizes importance of compliance to federal, state, and local regulations; encourages pollution prevention strategies whenever possible; and focuses on continued improvement on environmental issues.** The GEMS Program is based on ISO 14001, which relates to Environmental Management Systems (EMS). The EMS provides a framework to review activities performed by, or on behalf of the organization, including work performed by contractors.

Any parties, including contractors, who perform an activity identified as being significant based on the impact on the environment, environmental compliance, exposure risk, etc., must be aware of our facility GEMS program and ways to reduce the environmental impacts.

Training for contractors involved in construction, renovation or demolition shall consist of being made knowledgeable of VA Master Specifications Section 01 74 19 by their employer regarding construction waste management. The below signer certifies that each member of their staff who is involved in significant construction waste management activities has been given a copy of VA Master Specifications Section 01 74 19.

Acknowledgement of Contractor Receipt of this Document

Company: _____

Received by (print name): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Construction Project Waste Minimization Report

(Provide documentation for all waste/recycling streams)

Project Name/Number:				Date:			
Material (circle NA if not applicable)		Quantity (lbs or tons)	Destination (facility name and phone)	Material (circle NA if not applicable)		Quantity (lbs or tons)	Destination (facility name and phone)
Appliances (other than HVAC)	NA			HVAC Appliances	N A		
Asbestos	NA			Light fixtures	N A		
Asphalt	NA			Metal pipe	N A		
Batteries	NA			Non PCB-ballasts	N A		
Brick	NA			Scrap metal	N A		
Bulk waste	NA			Siding	N A		
Ceiling tiles	NA			Sinks/ toilets	N A		
Concrete	NA			Vegetation	N A		
Doors	NA			Windows	N A		
Excavated dirt/rock	NA			Wire	N A		
Fluorescent tubes	NA			Wood/ Lumber	N A		
Hardware	NA			Other:	N A		

VA Construction Waste Management Specifications (Section 01 74 19) require "Contractor shall use all reasonable means to divert construction and demolition waste from landfills and incinerators, and facilitate their salvage and recycle not limited to" the above. The contractor shall, (1.7 Records)" maintain records to document the quantity of waste generated; the quantity of waste diverted through sale, reuse, or recycling; and the quantity of waste disposed by landfill or incineration."

Note: Contractor should submit copies of weigh tickets from the disposal center as back up documentation of the quantities indicated above. (3.3 Report) "With each application for progress payment, submit a summary of construction and demolition debris diversion and disposal." (1.3 D Quality Assurance) "Any revenues or savings obtained from salvage or recycling shall accrue to the contractor."