**Sustainable procurement: the Government Buying Standards (GBS)**

**How to use the GBS**

The GBS are a set of easy to use product specifications for public procurers. They have two levels:

•mandatory

•best practice

The GBS are part of public procurement policy, with individual standards developed with input from across government, industry and wider stakeholders. They have been extensively reviewed with market research and analysis to establish criteria that take long-term cost effectiveness and market capacity into account.

**Mandatory standards**:

All departments must ensure that they meet the GBS when buying goods and services for those product groups covered. The mandatory standards are encouraged for the wider public sector to specify in tenders.

**Best practice**: voluntary standards for any organisation

Best practice standards have more or stricter criteria. They are for any organisation concerned about sustainable procurement to follow or to specify in tenders.

Suppliers able to demonstrate that they can meet mandatory or best practice GBSs will be in a good position to meet requirements for public sector contracts.

**Specifications for the GBS, listed by sector**

1. [Sustainable procurement: the GBS for cleaning products and services](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainable-procurement-the-gbs-for-cleaning-products-and-services)
   * 11 December 2015
   * Guidance
2. [Sustainable procurement: the GBS for electrical goods](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainable-procurement-the-gbs-for-electrical-goods)
   * 3 December 2015
   * Guidance
3. [Sustainable procurement: the GBS for furniture](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainable-procurement-the-gbs-for-furniture)
   * 2 January 2012
   * Guidance
4. [Sustainable procurement: the GBS for horticulture and park services](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainable-procurement-the-gbs-for-horticulture-and-park-services)
   * 11 December 2015
   * Guidance
5. [Sustainable procurement: the GBS for office ICT equipment](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainable-procurement-the-gbs-for-office-ict-equipment)
   * 2 January 2012
   * Guidance
6. [Sustainable procurement: the GBS for paper and paper products](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainable-procurement-the-gbs-for-paper-and-paper-products)
   * 2 January 2012
   * Guidance
7. [Sustainable procurement: the GBS for textiles](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainable-procurement-the-gbs-for-textiles)
   * 2 January 2012
   * Guidance
8. [Sustainable procurement: the GBS for transport (vehicles)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainable-procurement-the-gbs-for-transport-vehicles)
   * 21 December 2017
   * Guidance
9. [Sustainable procurement: the GBS for construction projects and buildings](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainable-procurement-gbs-for-construction-projects)
   * 3 December 2015
   * Guidance
10. [Sustainable procurement: the GBS for water-using products](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainable-procurement-the-gbs-for-water-using-products)
    * 11 December 2015
    * Guidance
11. [Sustainable procurement: the GBS for food and catering services](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sustainable-procurement-the-gbs-for-food-and-catering-services)
    * 27 March 2015
    * Guidance