# New procurement policy aims to reduce State use of products with PCBs in them.

A new policy designed to incentivize bidders for all levels of state goods and services contracts to provide products and product packaging that do not contain PCBs takes effect January 1, 2019. Enterprise Services is responsible for establishing such a policy under a 2014 [state law](http://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=39.26.280).

# The [policy](https://des.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/documents/About/Procurement_reform/Policies/DES-280-000PCB.pdf):

* Does NOT require terminating existing contracts or require eliminating any current stock.
* Sets a minimum preference of 5 percent for products and product packaging that contain no PCBs.
* Allows for consideration of products and product packaging with the lowest levels possible of PCBs when awarding points for best value during procurements.

## Thank you

Enterprise Services wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to the many contributors who participated in pilot projects and provided information and feedback as this policy and the training that supports it were developed. A few highlights include:

* Pilot projects were conducted on road paint, food packaging, and lubricants and diesel exhausts fluids. The pilots helped us ensure that the policy makes good common sense in the marketplace. The pilots also helped us understand complexities like standards that are most effective in an overarching policy that needs to address multiple types of products that all have differing practical quantification limits for PCBs.
* Productive partnerships with Department of Ecology, Department of Transportation, Correctional Industries, and City of Spokane helped leverage lessons learned and best practices for proactively minimizing PCBs.
* Consistent engagement with legislators who sponsored the bill, requiring Enterprise Services to develop the policy and training, helped ensure that the policy meets the intent of the law.

## About the policy

**View the PCBs policy:** [POL-DES-280-00](https://des.wa.gov/sites/default/files/public/documents/About/Procurement_reform/Policies/DES-280-000PCB.pdf)

Reducing use of products and product packaging containing PCBs is an important part of a larger statewide, green contracting effort to reduce use of toxic chemicals by Washington state agencies. PCBs:

* Don’t easily break down over time.
* Build up in the food chain.
* Are toxic at even low levels.

Small quantities of toxic chemicals – including PCBs – contained in ordinary household products are collectively the largest toxic threat we face today.

## Questions

If you have questions or would like further information, please contact:DESmiEnterpriseProcurementPolicy@des.wa.gov.