

C. MATERIEL AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

1. RESPONSIBILITY

As outlined in the Code of Environmental Stewardship for the federal government, DFAIT is required to meet or exceed the requirements of federal and international environmental laws and guidelines that apply to the department's materiel, facility and property management in Canada and at missions abroad.

2. ACCOUNTABILITY

Assistant Deputy Ministers are accountable for ensuring that environmental considerations are incorporated into DFAIT's management of materiel and properties in Canada and at missions abroad.

JEN is accountable for providing Branches with functional guidance on incorporating environmental considerations into DFAIT's decision-making and management of materiel and properties in Canada and at missions abroad.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

The incorporation of environmental considerations into DFAIT's materiel and property management is driven more by "good practices" than by legislative requirements. Public expectations are high, however, for government to conduct its affairs in an environmentally sound manner. The federal government recognizes this expectation and is committed to the "greening of operations."

DFAIT is participating in an Environmental Accountability Partnership (EAP) among federal departments to establish government-wide priorities and targets for the greening of government operations. Chaired by the Treasury Board Secretariat and Environment Canada, the EAP is placing emphasis in five key areas: procurement; waste reduction; energy and water conservation; and fleet management.

Prospects are that Cabinet will soon approve shorter time-frames and new more stringent requirements for the EAP. DFAIT will be expected to demonstrate due diligence in meeting or exceeding EAP targets.

In Canada, DFAIT occupies buildings owned and managed by Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC). DFAIT has an active role to play in ensuring that these facilities are managed in an environmentally sound manner.

DFAIT'S inventory of approximately 2500 properties outside Canada includes chanceries, offices, official residences, and staff quarters. Management of these properties is affected by foreign political, social, economic and security considerations and must consider local business practices and market fluctuations. This is particularly true with respect to the 70% of properties which are leased.