

# Learning legacy

Lessons learned from planning and staging the London 2012 Games



## London 2012 Use of PVC Policy

Champion Products are examples of tools and formats used by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) in executing its programme.

LOCOG is publishing these as part of its Learning Legacy in anticipation that they may be of use to future projects seeking best practice examples of tools and templates that have been used successfully on a large, complex programme.

### Purpose of the document, description and how it was used

As part of a wider policy for mitigating the impacts of manufacture, supply, use and disposal of all materials for the London 2012 Games, the Use of PVC Policy set out the principles that needed to be adhered to in considering whether to use PVC in any new facilities or equipment procured for use in venues or specifically for the Games.

The Policy covers materials minimisation, manufacture, supply and disposal of PVC.

This Policy was applicable to the Olympic Delivery Authority, LOCOG and all partners, contractors, sponsors and other representatives.

### Benefit to future organisations/projects

This document will be useful for other organisations/projects looking to adopt policy positions on certain materials.



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London 2012

**Policy on the use of PVC for the London 2012  
Olympic and Paralympic Games**



**policy**

## Use of PVC for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

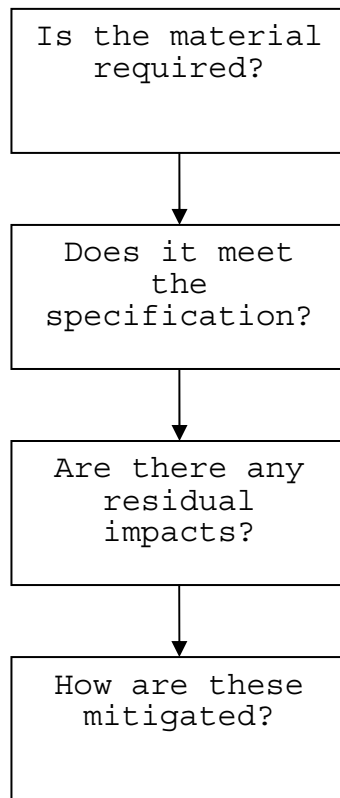
This statement sets out the parameters for the use of PVC fabric for the London 2012 Games, and the conditions for that use, as agreed between the Government, GLA, ODA and LOCOG, and approved by the Olympic Board. This statement applies to the use of PVC fabric not only by the ODA and LOCOG but also by partners, contractors, representatives or organisations acting on their behalf, including sponsors. *(For the remainder of this document references to 'London 2012' shall be taken to mean 'the ODA and LOCOG and partners, contractors, representatives or organisations acting on their behalf, including sponsors'.)*

2. London 2012 will employ and maintain a clear and consistent policy for mitigating the impacts of manufacture, supply, use and disposal of **all** materials for the London 2012 Games. London 2012 will regard the Olympic and Paralympic Games as an opportunity for sustainable procurement to inspire change, and a catalyst for industry innovation to occur, and will adopt rigorous approaches in order to achieve that.

3. Decisions on which material or materials to use on a particular project will be taken on the basis of an assessment of a range of factors, including:-

- Whether the identified use is necessary or merely desirable, and the extent to which the use could be minimised or excluded
- Fitness for purpose, such as structural integrity, ease of use, installation and dismantling, water-proofing, etc.
- Cost and value for money
- Environmental and social impacts across the whole life cycle, including the scope for potential harm to the environment and public health; the scope for recycling or re-use (with an emphasis on the importance of closed loop reuse and recycling options); the percentage of recycled content, and embodied carbon
- Any wider implications or requirements affecting the use, such as the ability to print on, backlight and project onto a material.
- Availability and suitability of substitute materials, each of which shall be evaluated on the same criteria

Schematically, this can be expressed as:



Assessments shall also take account of the possibility and desirability of using a mix of materials for the same or similar solutions, especially where this offers greater opportunity to promote or promulgate sustainable procurement.

4. In making decisions as in paragraph 3 above, London 2012 will remain mindful of the importance of reducing use of all materials and will seek to use materials which minimise environmental and social impacts. In the event that the balance of factors leads London 2012 to procure, lease or otherwise use a material which carries potentially adverse environmental or social impacts, at any stage in the manufacturing, supply, usage or disposal processes, they will seek to take all reasonable steps to mitigate those impacts (e.g. through use of method statements, etc).

5. Specifically, where PVC fabric is required for performance-based reasons, and it can be robustly demonstrated (as noted in paragraph 3 above) that no other more suitable alternative substance or material exists, London 2012 will actively seek to take a number of mitigating measures, including, but not limited to:-

**Manufacture:**

- The supplier must demonstrate that any PVC supplied has been manufactured in accordance with the *ECVM Industry Charter for the Production of VCM and PVC*.
- The supplier must confirm that:

- The production of PVC does not result in effluent discharges exceeding established water quality standards, or vent gases exceeding European standards for waste incineration.
- The production of PVC is conducted in a way that prevents fugitive emissions during manufacture and protects the health and safety of employees.
- The non-recycled content of PVC must not contain lead, mercury or cadmium stabilisers, and London 2012 will challenge suppliers not to include older recycled content which may include lead, mercury or cadmium stabilisers.
- London 2012, must use reasonable endeavours to procure PVC with a recycled content of at least 30% unless this is specifically precluded by performance requirements, for example where a structural tensile membrane must be fully waterproof in which case new PVC (with 0% recycled content) may be acceptable.
- Where PVC proposed contains less than 30% recycled content, London 2012 must ensure that other London 2012 stakeholders are consulted and agree to its use in the specific instance.
- Notwithstanding the range of plasticisers which may be used, London 2012 has decided, as a matter of choice, to use reasonable endeavours to procure PVC which is produced using non-phthalate plasticisers.
- Notwithstanding the above, all chemicals used in the production of PVC must be registered or pre-registered for use under the REACH regulations with the European Chemical Agency, otherwise they are banned from use.

**Supply and disposal:**

- Where London 2012 procures PVC for temporary usage or where permanent usage is not assured, London 2012 is required to ensure that there is a take-back scheme that offers a closed loop reuse system or mechanical recycling system for post-consumer waste. Take-back schemes that specify incineration, land-filling or any form of disposal of PVC that does not include recycling or re-engineering options are not acceptable.
- Any additional costs for take-back schemes must be set out in the tender documentation so that budgetary impacts can be monitored.
- If a London 2012 contractor believes that it has valid reasons why it cannot meet any of these conditions then it must promptly raise this with London 2012 and provide a detailed justification for not meeting the condition(s).

**Exclusions:**

- Where a product made from (or containing) PVC is to be hired but is already part of the hire market, and is due to be returned to that market after use, London 2012 may use such products. However, London 2012 will be expected to use reasonable endeavours to work with the hire market to identify appropriate materials or products, meeting as many of the conditions as possible, including all the relevant environmental, health, safety and regulatory conditions; and to choose suppliers which have responsible disposal and/or recycling policies and procedures in place.

## **Next steps**

6. The Government, the GLA, ODA and LOCOG will work with the Materials Forum, convened by LOCOG, to consider the scope to apply this specification for use of PVC fabric for the London 2012 Games to other organisations, including (but not limited to) the GLA Group and Government departments and agencies, by end July 2009.
7. The Government, the GLA, ODA and LOCOG will work with the Materials Forum to develop specifications for the use of other materials for the London 2012 Games, including PVC in other formats, which will address the respective social and environmental impacts of those materials. They will also work with the Forum to review, update and agree these and other materials' specifications, as appropriate.
8. Progress on the application of this policy, and others to be developed as a result of the methodology set out in this statement, will be reported to the London 2012 Sustainability Group which, in turn, reports on a quarterly basis to the Olympic Board Steering Group.

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**MAYOR OF LONDON**

