Section 2. Findings and Purposes.

The Congress finds the following:

1. More than 98 percent of Federal printing involving documents or publications is performed using lithographic inks.
2. Increasing the amount of vegetable oil used in lithographic ink would—
   a. help reduce the Nation’s use of nonrenewable energy resources;
   b. result in the use of products that are less damaging to the environment;
   c. result in a reduction of volatile organic compound emissions; and
3. The technology exists to use vegetable oil in lithographic ink and, in some applications, to use lithographic ink that uses no petroleum distillates in the liquid portion of the ink.
4. Some lithographic inks have contained vegetable oils for many years; other lithographic inks have more recently begun to use vegetable oil.
5. According to the Government Printing Office, using vegetable oil-based ink appears to add little if any additional cost to Government printing.
6. Use of vegetable oil-based ink in Federal Government printing should further develop—
   a. the commercial viability of vegetable oil-based ink, which could result in demand, for domestic use alone, for 2,500,000,000 pounds of vegetable crops or 500,000,000 pounds of vegetable oil; and
   b. a product that could help the United States retain or enlarge its share of the world market for vegetable oil-ink.

Purpose.—The purpose of this Act is to require that all lithographic printing using ink containing oil that is performed or procured by a Federal agency may not perform or procure lithographic printing that uses ink containing the maximum amounts of vegetable oil and materials derived from other renewable resources that—

1. are technologically feasible, and
2. result in printing costs that are competitive with printing using petroleum-based inks.

Section 3. Federal Printing Requirements.

(a) General Rule.—Notwithstanding any other law, and except as provided in subsection (b), a Federal agency may not perform or procure lithographic printing that uses ink containing oil if the ink contains less than the following percentage of vegetable oil:

1. In the case of news ink, 40 percent.
2. In the case of sheet-fed ink, 20 percent.
3. In the case of forms ink, 20 percent.
4. In the case of heat-set ink, 10 percent.
5. (c) Exceptions.—

   (1) Excepting.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to lithographic printing performed or procured by a Federal agency if—
   (A) the head of the agency determines, after consultation with the Public Printer and within the 3-year period ending on the date of the commencement of the printing or the date of that procurement, respectively, that vegetable oil-based ink is not suitable to meet specific, identified requirements of the agency related to the printing; or
   (B) the Public Printer determines—
   (i) within the 3-month period ending on the date of the commencement of the printing, in the case of printing of materials that are printed at intervals of 6 months or more;
   (ii) before the date of the commencement of the printing, in the case of printing of materials that are printed at intervals of 6 months or more; that the cost of performing the printing using vegetable oil-based ink is significantly greater than the cost of performing the printing using other available ink.
   (2) Notice to Congress.—Not later than 30 days after making a determination under paragraph (1)(A), the head of a Federal agency shall report the determination to the Committee on Government Operations [now Committee on Oversight and Government Reform] and the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Rules of the Senate.
   (D) Increase the use of renewable agricultural products.

Title 44—Public Printing and Documents

§ 501. Government printing, binding, and blank-book work to be done at Government Printing Office

All printing, binding, and blank-book work for Congress, the Executive Office, the Judiciary, other than the Supreme Court of the United States, and every executive department, independent office and establishment of the Government, shall be done at the Government Printing Office, except—

1. printing for Congress, the Executive Office, the Judiciary, other than the Supreme Court of the United States, and every executive department, independent office or establishment of the Government, shall be done at the Government Printing Office, except—
   (1) printing in field printing plants operated by an executive department, independent office or establishment, and the procurement of printing by an executive department, independent office or establishment from allotments for contract field printing, if approved by the Joint Committee on Printing.
   (2) printing or binding may be done at the Government Printing Office only when authorized by law.

Historical and Revision Notes


This section incorporates only the first sentence of former section 116. The balance will be found in section 1123 of the revision.

Vegetable Ink Printing

Pub. L. 103–348, Oct. 6, 1994, 108 Stat. 3133, provided that:

"SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the ‘Vegetable Ink Printing Act of 1994’."