

GPP Criteria for Furniture

Green Public Procurement



Furniture Economy

- World Furniture Outlook by CSIL estimates the global furniture market at around US\$420 billion in 2010 alone.
- It provides **1.08 million jobs** to the European economy, with a turnover of **€90 billion**.



Key environmental impacts

- 80-90% of the impacts are linked to furniture materials.
- Manufacturing due to the use of chemical mixtures, heat and electricity in drying and curing processes.
- Impacts due to packaging



Definition

- Between the 1st and 2nd set of criteria there is little divergence.
- The revised definition also includes bed mattresses within its scope.
- Does not include :
 - a) Products whose primary function is not to be used as furniture.
 - b) Furniture fitted into vehicles
 - c) Furniture products which consist of more than 5% of materials other than solid wood, wood-based panels, cork, bamboo, rattan, plastics, metals, leather, coated fabrics, textiles, glass or padding materials.



First Criteria (2008)

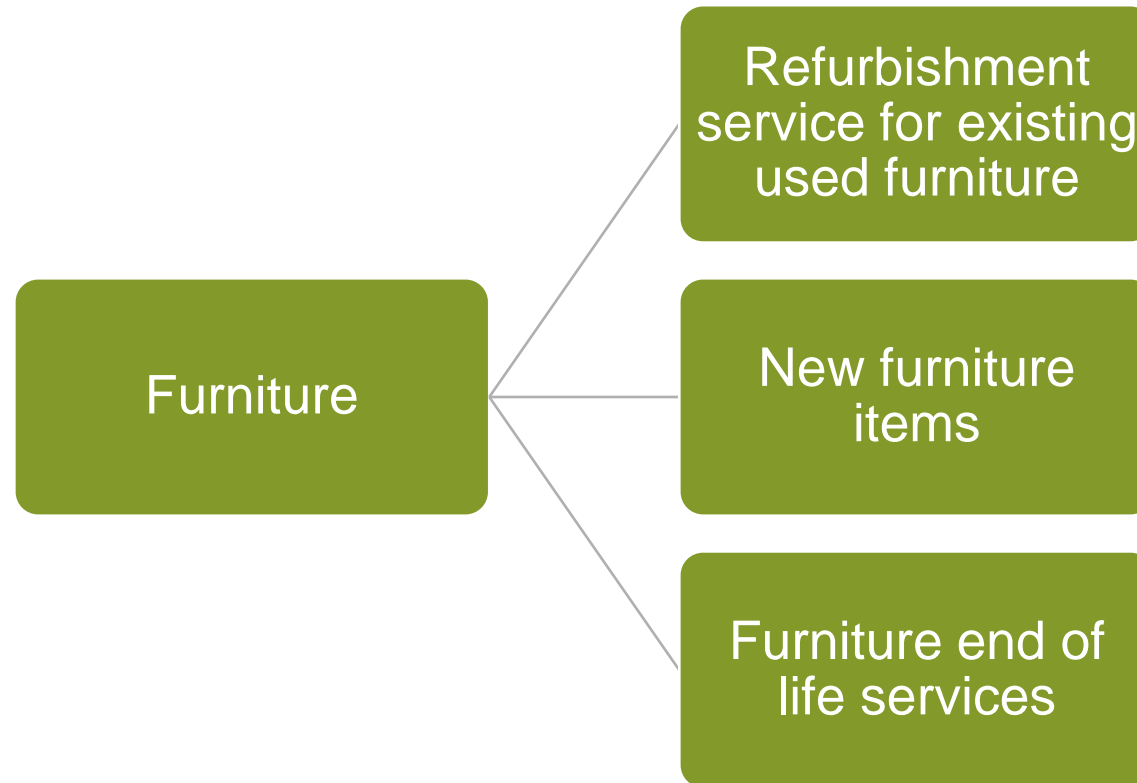
- Aimed at procurement of new furniture
- 6 technical specs and 4 award criteria
- No refurbishment criteria
- First attempt to addressing the sector

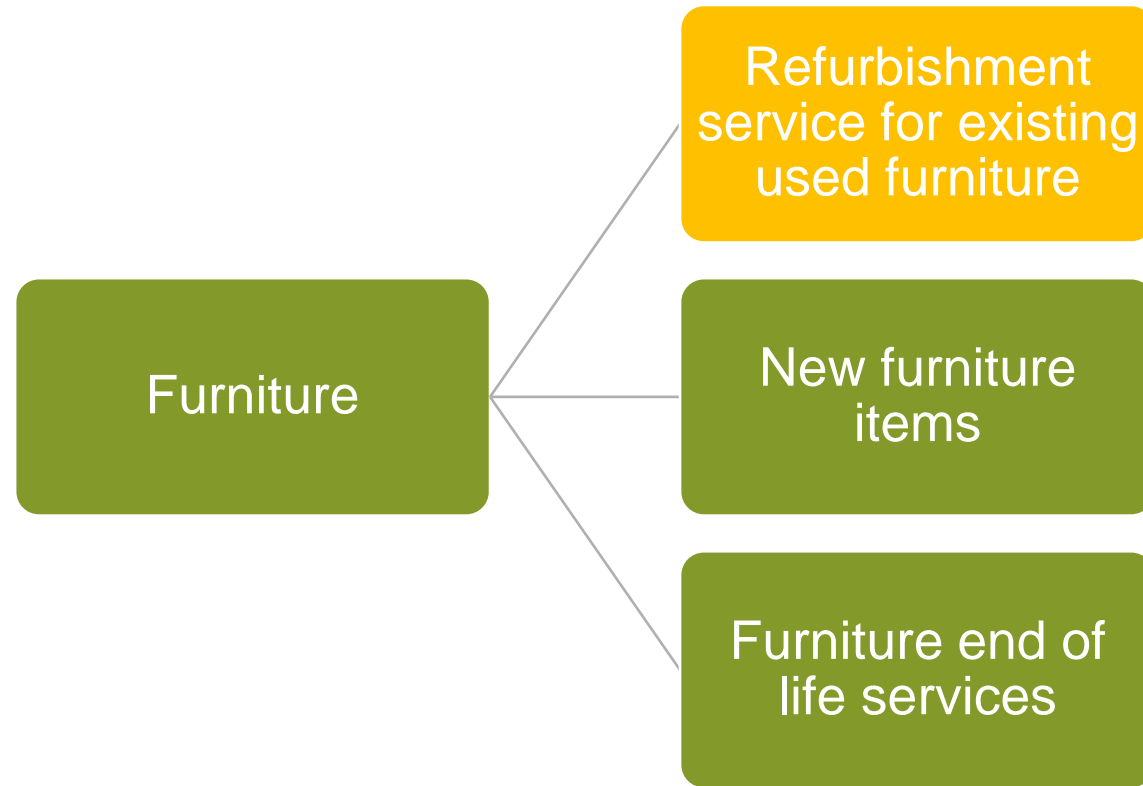
Revised GPP Criteria (2017)

- Offers a 3 phase approach for CA.
- 12 technical specs and 5 award criteria
- Refurbishment is a cornerstone of the revised criteria
- Holistic and more ambitious



Streams of the revised criteria





Refurbishment service for existing furniture

- i. Refurbishment requirements
- ii. Durable upholstery coverings
- iii. Blowing agents
- iv. Refurbished furniture product warranty



Refurbishment requirements

- Does not limit tenderers to specific refurbishment operations.
- The terms 'refurbishment' is a catch-all term to include various degrees of repair, refurbishment and refinishing that may be applied
- A key barrier is the lack of demand from CAs in Europe and lack of experience with such contracts.
- Cost savings amount to **20-50%**.



Durable upholstery coverings

- Low quality upholstery coverings can lead to premature end of life of the entire product.
- Materials generally fall into 3 categories: Textile fabrics, coated fabrics and genuine leather.
- In terms of verification, tenderers are to provide a declaration from the Supplier. EU Ecolabel or ISO 14024 Type 1 ecolabels shall be deemed to comply.



Blowing agents

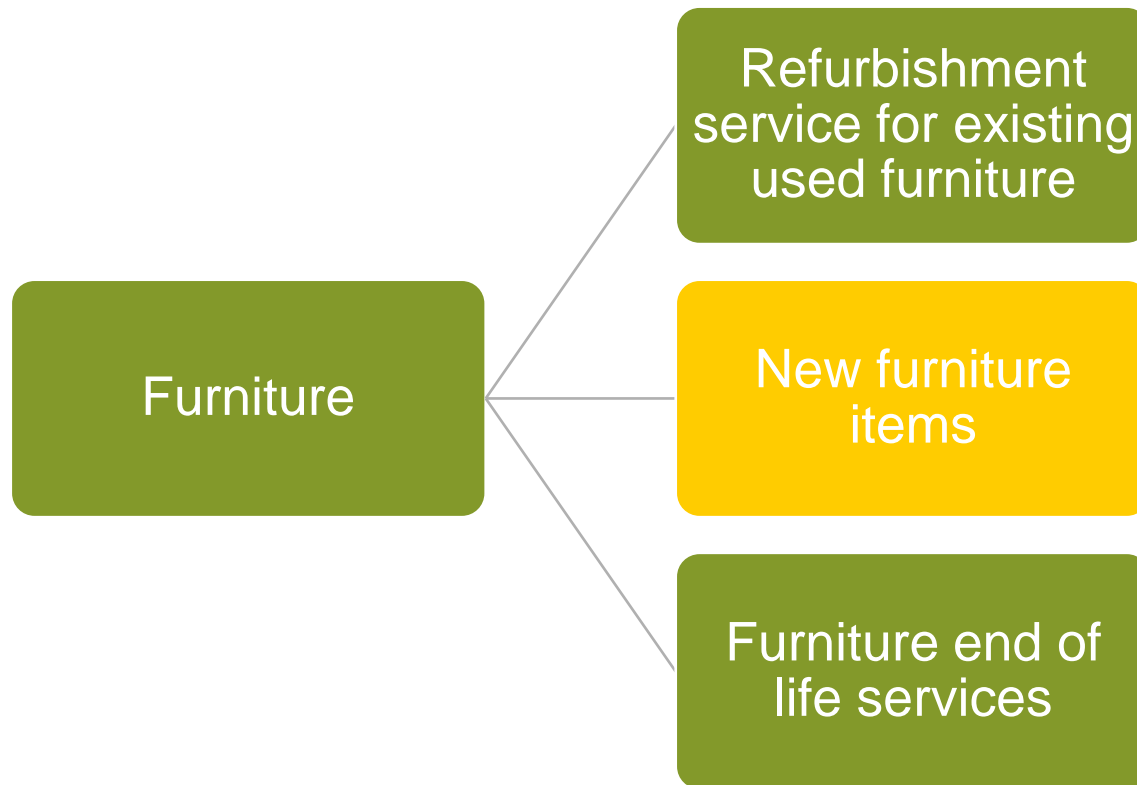
- Blowing agents are of high relevance to the padding materials used in furniture upholstery.
- Industry has shown that alternatives to CFCs, HCFS and HFCs can be used and are therefore being encouraged via GPP.
- In terms of verification it requires a declaration from the manufacturer of the foam.



Refurbished furniture product warranty

- Limited discussion has taken place regarding warranties for refurbished furniture.
- It is difficult to set a universal minimum warranty for all furniture products.
- It is being suggested that the refurbished furniture meets the same minimum legal requirements that are set out for new furniture products sold to end consumers (**i.e. 2 years**).





New furniture items

- i. Sourcing of legal timber for furniture production
- ii. Formaldehyde emissions from wood-based panels
- iii. REACH Candidate List substance reporting
- iv. Blowing agents
- v. Fitness for use
- vi. Design for disassembly and repair
- vii. Product warranty and spare parts



Sourcing of legal timber for furniture production

- This requirement is the same as the 2008 criteria.
- The basic requirement for all wood to be legally sourced may not seem very ambitious when considering the obligations of the EU Timber Regulation.
- According to Chatham House in 2015 **more than 80 million m³** of timber was harvested illegally in 2014.



Formaldehyde emissions from wood-based panels

- The most negative aspect of wood-based panels is the use of formaldehyde emitting resins to bind together the wood chips/fibres.
- The E1 standard has been well established within Europe and there are no problems whatsoever with the markets ability to supply such products.
- In terms of verification a declaration from the wood based panel supplier stating that the panels are compliant with E1 emission limits.



REACH Candidate List substance reporting

- Furniture manufacturers like any other industry operating in the EU should be aware of the periodic updates to the Candidate List
- Require the proactive reporting of the presence or non-presence of Candidate List substances if present in concentrations greater than 0.1% by weight.



Fitness for use

- Not only about the minimum required quality of materials but also about how they come together to create fully functional furniture.
- The furniture industry has undertaken considerable work to produce a series of EN standards that present a harmonised approach.
- A declaration of compliance with the relevant EN standards supported by test reports from furniture manufacturer. EU ecolabel for furniture or ISO 14024 Type I ecolabel also comply.



Design for disassembly and repair

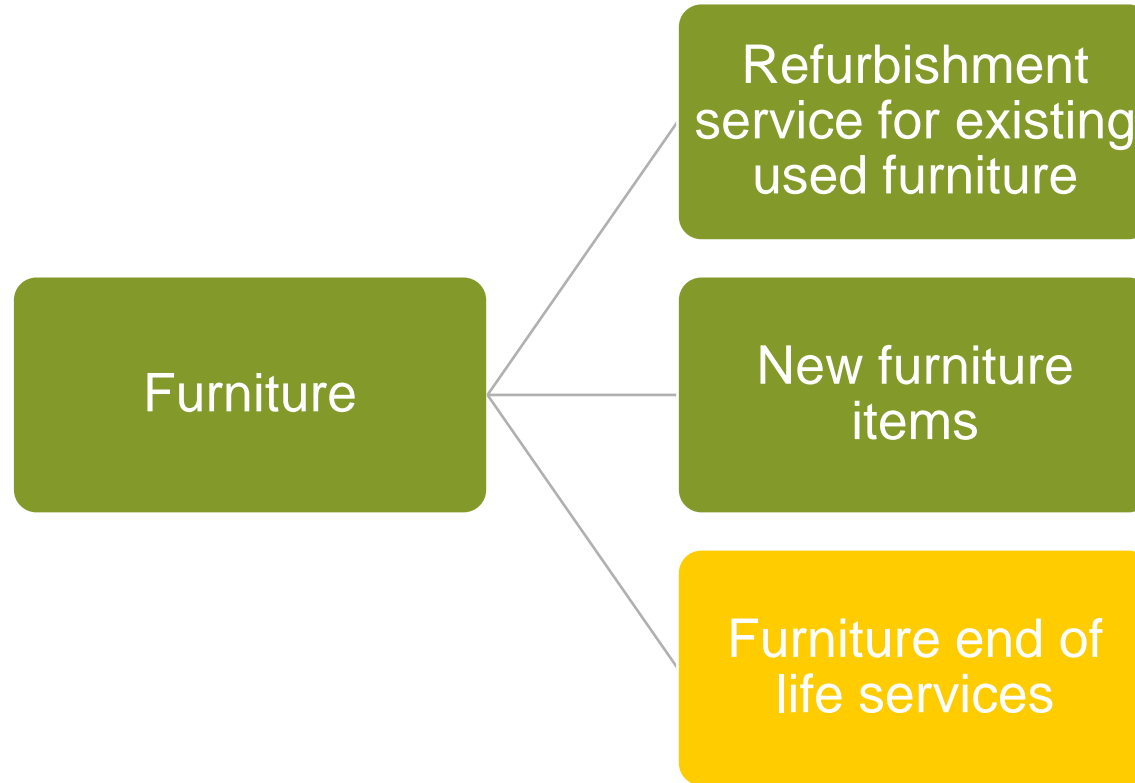
- Many furniture products are designed in such a way that repair is simply not possible or practical.
- To maximise the potential to extend the useable lifetime of furniture products, it is essential that products are designed with considerations to both disassemble and repair.
- The tenderer shall provide a diagram of the product, illustrating the parts that can be removed and replaced and the tools required.



Product warranty and spare parts

- Even when furniture products are designed that repair is possible, efforts to extend the lifetime of the product can be hampered by the lack of availability of spare parts.
- This criterion requires a **3 year product warranty** and **5 years for spare part availability**.





Furniture end of life services

- i. Collection and reuse of existing furniture stock



Collection and reuse of existing furniture stock

- This criterion offers a different approach since it targets furniture at the end of its useful life.
- If the furniture is reused directly or refurbished prior to further reuse such an approach has clear links to the EU wide objective of shifting towards a circular economy.
- Experience with such contracts revealed that arrangements typically offer the used furniture for free and the procurer would pay a fee to cover transport costs.



Conclusions

- The criteria will not have a mandatory status but the targets are foreseen to be increasingly ambitious throughout the years.
- Any feedback is to be sent to gpp@gov.mt

