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Product Verification Committee Clarifications Report Number 4

I. BACKGROUND

See Clarification Report number one for the background on the authority of the Product Verification Committee (PVC) and the context for PVC Clarifications.

II. PVC CLARIFICATIONS

Clarification 4-1. Regarding 4.1.4.1 Optional – Elimination of intentionally added lead in certain applications

Some manufacturers have asked what the limits are of components “that are directly used to generate an image”. Are graphics cards, chipsets, and processors included that are part of the computer, but are involved in sending a signal to the display device? Especially the question has arisen regarding what components of a notebook or an integrated computer are covered by this criterion, since the display device and the computer are part of the same unit.

Background: This criterion was meant to provide an optional point for reducing the lead content of VDUs beyond those mandated in RoHS. The full wording of the standard follows:

Product Criterion: The VDU, including housing, batteries, cables, adapters and other peripheral equipment used to generate an image, shall not contain lead greater than 50 ppm by weight per listed part unless it can be shown that the lead is present above this threshold due to the use of recycled content.

Applies to: VDUs only, including stand-alone units and those components of an integrated unit, e.g., a notebook computer, that are directly used to generate an image. This does not apply to European RoHS Directive exemptions.

Definition: 3.1.18 video display unit: a cathode ray tube, cathode ray tube device, and flat panel screen or similar display device, including stand alone units and those components of an integrated unit, e.g. a notebook computer, that are directly used to generate an image

PVC Clarification: The interpretation of this criterion should be consistent between stand-alone and integrated VDUs. For a stand-alone VDU, the criterion clearly covers any processors, chips, boards or other components that are resident in the VDU and are required to make it work, i.e. provide power, illuminate the screen, accept and translate an image from an external source, etc. It would therefore not apply to processors, boards, or chipsets that reside in the computer and are independent of the VDU, even though they are necessary for generating an image. This same principle should apply to notebooks and integrated units. The criterion therefore covers those parts and components that are functionally equivalent to those found in a stand-alone VDU, but would not cover graphics cards, processors and other components that are typically physically separate from the stand alone VDU.