



**EPEAT Clarification #14-5  
Upgradeability with common tools**

**This Clarification applies to the following IEEE Standards and criteria:**

**Applicable Standards:**

- IEEE 1680.1 – Computers and Displays
- IEEE 1680.2 – Imaging Equipment
- IEEE 1680.3 – Televisions

**Applicable Criteria (enter here):**

4.4.2.1

**PVC Determination:**

Products containing externally accessible ports such as a high performance serial bus or a USB are capable of being upgraded by adding a hard disk, DVD, floppy drive, memory and cards, and therefore would conform to this criterion.

**Background Analysis:**

*Criterion 4.4.2.1 Required – Upgradeable with common tools*

*Product criterion: Product shall be upgradeable with commonly available tools:*

- Hard disk, digital versatile disc (DVD), floppy drive can be changed or extended [e.g., by a high performance serial bus (IEEE Std 1394™) or Universal Serial Bus (USB)]
- Memory and cards can be changed or extended [e.g., by a high performance serial bus (IEEE Std 1394™) or USB].

*Question: If a product has a high performance serial bus or a USB, does it conform to this criterion?*

Upgrading a product according to this criterion can be done by physically changing any of the items on the lists (for example swapping a hard drive). However, the criterion also gives the option of changing or extending the product via externally accessible ports such as a high performance serial bus or a USB. It is possible to add a hard disk, DVD, floppy drive, memory and cards via an externally accessible port such as a high performance serial bus or a USB. Further, this criterion does not specify the type of hard disk, DVD, floppy drive, memory or cards as it applies to the product's upgradability.

**Change History:**

Created: October 2012