



**EPEAT Clarification #5-3
regarding calculation of the denominator for recycled content percentages**

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

PVC Clarification:

All plastics in the product, regardless of their function, shall be included in the determination of the total weight of plastics in the product, except those components specifically excluded in the standard.

Rationale: The 1680 Standard does not provide a basis for excluding some plastic parts, or portions of parts, according to the function they serve, other than PCBs. PCBs (and packaging in one criterion) are specifically excluded, and therefore there is no basis to believe that the standard developers intended to exclude other plastic components.

Background:

Should certain plastic components that do not lend themselves to recycled content due to functional or performance issues be excluded from, or included in, the calculation of the amount of plastic in the product (denominator)?

A subscriber expressed the opinion that only molded plastic parts/mechanical parts are currently being counted towards the total plastic weight in the product by subscribers and in verification. They expressed that certain plastic parts due to performance issues (e.g. clarity, product safety, etc.) are not good candidates for biobased or postconsumer recycled plastics, such as cable jackets, insulating sheets, light guides, and optical films. Furthermore, the subscriber believes that this was the intention of the standard development team.

The subscriber also noted that for equipment that uses a high percentage of highly recyclable metal the only plastics in the product may be the light guides, optical films and cable jackets. The overall objective of minimizing fossil fuel use in plastics, and waste from unrecyclable plastics, is achieved, but the product is disadvantaged by not being able to claim the recycled plastic points.

Change History:

Created: June 2008