



**EPEAT Clarification #7-1
regarding definition of products less than 25g within IEEE Std. 1680.1-2009**

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 Determination:

The determination by the PVC is that the reference to “parts less than 25 g” applies to each component of the product as shipped, after all manufacturing has been completed. Specific to the question below, because the power adapter is a single component of the product as shipped and specifically, the plastic casing parts are ultrasonically “welded” together to create a single unit, all applicable weight limits should apply to the power adapter as shipped.

A “part” or “component” is defined as a constituent element, as of a system.^[1]

^[1] <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/component>

Background Analysis:

See Clarification Report Number 1 for the background on the authority of the Product Verification Committee (PVC) and the context for PVC Clarifications.

This report describes recent action taken by the Product Verification Committee. The PVC has created a New Clarification for an issue not previously addressed.

The following was received from a component part manufacturer. The specific name has been replaced with A.:

We sell one notebook power adaptor to A customer, and A customer wants to apply for EPEAT Gold for that notebook.

There are several EPEAT criteria regarding large plastic parts being greater than 25 grams.

The notebook power adaptor is an assembly of one top case cover and one bottom chassis. Before the two plastic pieces are sealed by ultrasonic vibration method, there are two independent plastic pieces.

In general, one trained recycling business will start to use cutting tool to open the adaptor case into case cover and chassis along with the ultrasonic-sealed line before recycling metal parts, motherboard, small piece of plastics like socket...etc.

Therefore, in my opinion, both case cover and chassis should be viewed as two independent plastic pieces. The total weight of both case cover and chassis should not be applied with the criteria of large plastic parts being greater than 25 grams.

Would you agree with my opinion?

There are three criteria that have a limit of 25 g within the “product criterion” section:

- 4.1.6.2 – Large plastic parts free of certain flame retardants classified under European Council Directive 67/548/EEC
- 4.1.8.1 – Large plastic parts free of PVC
- 4.3.2.1 – Manual separation of plastics.

In reviewing the Standard, it was noted that the following items are not defined anywhere in the IEEE 1680 or 1680.1 Standard: “part” and “component”. The crux of the question is: when do we apply the less than 25 g rule?

Change History:

Created: September 2010