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Policy on Qualification of Standards for the EPEAT Registry

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The qualification of standards for implementation on the EPEAT Registry is at the discretion of the Green Electronics Council (GEC) Board of Directors. The following process and factors will be used as guidance when deciding whether to implement a new or revised standard on the EPEAT Registry. If a standard does not fully meet all the qualification factors, GEC may still seek a path for implementation of the standard on the Registry.

QUALIFICATION PROCESS

1. Any party may request that EPEAT implement a standard on the EPEAT Registry.
2. GEC staff shall evaluate the standard according to the qualification factors below and develop a recommendation about the degree to which the standard meets each factor. Staff shall seek input from the Advisory Council on the recommendation.

   If a qualification factor is not strictly met, staff may consider alternative methods the standard uses to accomplish the same purpose or reasonable attempts to accomplish the purpose.
3. GEC shall provide notice of its consideration of a standard via www.epeat.net, and shall seek comments from stakeholders.
4. The GEC Board of Directors shall make the final determination and provide notice to the requester as well as on the website.

QUALIFICATION FACTORS

Standard - Development Process

1. The standard must be developed through a voluntary consensus process that is open and transparent for all interested stakeholders[1]. To be open, a standard process must provide for input, including full consideration of all qualifying comments, by any interested party. To be transparent, all procedures, processes and decisions must be reviewable by any interested party.
2. The standard development process must include a balance of interested and affected types of stakeholders in consensus bodies, and in other stakeholder decision-making bodies that approve the draft and final standard. Interested and affected types of stakeholders must include, at a minimum, manufacturers, suppliers to the manufacturers, government representatives, purchasers, environmental advocates and recyclers/refurbishers. Balance means that no single interest type shall comprise more than 1/3 of the body. Standards processes that fail to achieve or maintain such balance

[1] Standard development processes that are ANSI accredited shall satisfy this factor.

shall provide acceptable evidence that they have undertaken special effort to do so, and must have included at least some representation of each major interest type.

3. The standard development process shall utilize procedures to prevent dominance by any interest, individual or organization within consensus bodies, and in other stakeholder decision-making bodies that approve the draft or final standard. Dominance means a position or exercise of dominant authority, leadership, or influence by reason of superior leverage, strength, or representation to the exclusion of fair and equitable consideration of other viewpoints.
4. There shall be a clear mechanism in place to evaluate the standard at least every 3 years in order to determine whether it needs to be updated to maintain it as a leadership standard as the environmental performance of products available in the marketplace improves.

Standard - Overarching

1. The standard shall be available to the public at reasonable cost.
2. The standard shall be an environmental leadership standard. The following principles shall been have been used and understood during the development process:
   a. Only environmentally leading products, those in the top third of the market, are expected to qualify to the standard at the minimum level at the date of publication of the standard.
   b. Only a very few, if any, products are expected to meet the highest performance tier at the date of publication of the standard.
3. The standard shall provide a clear and consistent set of environmental performance criteria, addressing multiple life cycle stages of electronic products and aimed at reducing the environmental impact of the products.
4. The standard shall include performance criteria relating to multiple environmental attributes, including at a minimum such attributes as reduction or elimination of environmentally sensitive materials, selection of environmentally preferable materials, design for end of life, life cycle extension, energy conservation, end-of-life management, corporate performance and packaging.
5. The standard shall provide three performance tiers and a clear description of how they are achieved.
6. Standards shall be evaluated for product scope, consistency with EPEAT's conformity assurance approach, and other factors.

Standard - Content (Criteria)

1. If the standard contains optional criteria, those criteria shall provide a continuing challenge for improvement of environmental performance over the life of the standard. In other words, not all optional criteria should be achievable at the date of publication

of the standard. However, optional criteria should be defined such that the technological or operational capability can reasonably be expected to be achieved within the standard revision cycle.

2. The criteria contained in the standard are clearly written, effective, relevant and verifiable through use of objective metrics and commonly accepted tools, methodologies and/or standards.
3. The criteria in the standard should provide at least one of the following three environmental benefits:
    a. Provide clear environmental benefits that are measurable, verifiable and credible.
    b. Represent incremental steps towards an environmental benefit, establishment of systems to provide environmental benefit, or foundational elements of an environmental management system.
    c. Reporting of environmental data that will allow the comparison of key environmental aspects of products or that will help fill critical information gaps to facilitate future development of criteria for key environmental impacts.

4. To the extent possible, criteria in the standard should harmonize with national and international environmental requirements and standards, including voluntary eco-labels and market requirements. Consensus bodies may develop more rigorous requirements than currently exist.