



**EPEAT Clarification #1-2  
Identification of materials with special handling needs**

**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):**

4.3.1.1

**PVC Determination:**

Posting treatment information on the manufacturer’s web site, possibly in an on-line manual, is acceptable. Likewise, labeling on the product would also make it directly accessible to recyclers. However, simply publishing the information in a hard copy manual that does not typically accompany a device at end-of-life is not an adequate demonstration of providing treatment information to recyclers.

**Background analysis:**

*Question came from one subscriber:*

*Would it be acceptable to the Green Council if we identified such materials in the users manual? We have checked several EPEAT products and we did not note any makings on the computer, but were indicated in the manual. I am referring to mercury in the backlight tube, which is exempted in the RoHS Directive specifically. The state of Vermont will require that notebook computers be labeled to identify the presence of mercury, by July 1, 2007. But we, and apparently other manufacturers are not yet ready to apply such a label as yet until close to that date. This is a very important point that remains to be resolved and would greatly appreciate your response.*

The intent of the standard is to “provide treatment information to reuse and recycling facilities”. It does not specify how to provide the information, and therefore any reasonable attempt that would make the information directly accessible to recyclers would be reasonable.

It has been documented that manuals are not generally provided along with electronic equipment for recycling. Moreover, a survey of recyclers indicates that not very many access information from manuals.

When this criterion was developed, the thought was that this type of information would be available on a web site of some sort – either the manufacturers or a common one. The Green Electronics Council has spoken with the National Center for Electronics Recycling and IAER about hosting such a site, and there is interest.

*Note: This clarification was adapted / adopted from IEEE 1680.1: Clarification regarding 4.3.1.1  
– Required criterion – Identification of materials with special handling needs.*

**Change History:**

Created: January 2007