



**EPEAT Clarification #14-1
Commonly available tools for product disassembly**

This Clarification applies to the following IEEE Standards and criteria:

Applicable Standards:

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

Applicable Criteria:

- 4.3.1.3, 4.3.1.5, 4.3.1.7, 4.3.2.1, 4.4.2.1
- 4.3.1.1, 4.3.2.3
- 4.3.1.1, 4.3.2.4

PVC Determination:

A tool is deemed to be “commonly available” as long as it can be purchased by any individual or business without restrictions and is readily available for purchase on the open market. The tools may be purchasable at a local retail store, or by any individual or business via a mail or web-based retailer. Tools that are proprietary or require licensing or other agreements between the buyer and seller are not considered commonly available.

Background Analysis:

Several criteria in each of the 1680 standards reference the use of “commonly available tools” for the disassembly of products for ease of recycling and reuse, access to hazardous components, or repair/upgrades. This term was initially found in 1680.1:2009. Since 1680.1 did not define this term, a clarification (14-1) was issued by the PVC, which is found verbatim in the above PVC Determination.

Since publication of Clarification 14-1, two additional IEEE 1680 standards were published. Section 3.2 of 1680.2:2012 and 1680.3:2012 define the term as follows:

commonly available tools: Widely used, commercially available tools.

By stipulating that product disassembly be accomplished with the use of “commonly available tools,” the standards make it clear that availability of, or access to, tools should not create an obstacle to the disassembly of products for recycling and reuse, access to hazardous components, or repair/upgrades. The key ambiguity is what the term “commonly available tools” describes. How should “widely used, commercially available tools” as stated in 1680.2 and 1680.3 be interpreted? Are these only tools that one can purchase at the local retail store – e.g., Philips or slot headed screwdrivers – or does this include tools that are designed for a special use but can be freely purchased by anyone via a mail or web-based retailer? Are these only tools that are widely used in the general population or does this include tools that are widely used by recyclers?

The PVC reviewed the 1680.2 and 1680.3 standards and the use of the term “commonly available tools” in the above reference criteria. The PVC determined that Clarification 14-1 is consistent with, and therefore applicable to, 1680.2 and 1680.3 as well as 1680.1.

Change History:

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| Version A approved by the PVC, published, and effective October 2012. |
| Revision B approved by the PVC, published and effective June 17, 2013 |
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