



EPEAT Clarification #14-3 Easy disassembly of external enclosure

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):

4.3.1.3

PVC Determination:

Subscribers must **demonstrate** that external enclosures are easily removable by one person alone with commonly available tools and that the design does not unreasonably obstruct the disassembly process. Note that required criterion 4.3.1.5 requires hazardous materials be safely removable.

Background Analysis:

Product criterion: External enclosures shall be easily removable by one person alone with commonly available tools.

Question: What is the definition of “easily removable”?

The key ambiguity is how “easily removable” is defined with respect to this criterion. While the 1680.1 standard does not define this term, the Verification Requirements for this criterion require documentation that enclosure design “does not unreasonably obstruct the disassembly process” as follows:

2) Supporting documentation that the external enclosure design does not unreasonably obstruct the disassembly process. Examples of documentation include:

a) A list of commonly available tools required to disassemble the external enclosure, and instructions for disassembly that show how the external enclosure can be easily removed, or

b) A statement from a minimum of three recyclers individually, or at least one recycler working under an independent entity with electronics recycling expertise that is not a trade organization, confirming that the product design meets requirements of 4.3.1.3.

The term “easily removable” can be defined in terms of difficulty or time or a combination of both. However, the criterion, as written, does not provide a metric in terms of difficulty or time. The criterion does say that the external enclosure should be “easily removable by one person

alone with commonly available tools” and that the design cannot “unreasonably obstruct” disassembly. Further, it is the responsibility of the Subscriber to provide verification documentation that these requirements are met.

Change History:

Created: October 2012