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EPEAT Clarification #15
Reduced number of plastic materials types

This Clarification applies to the following IEEE Standards and criteria:

Applicable Standards:	Applicable Criteria (enter here):
☒ IEEE 1680.1 – Computers and Displays	4.3.1.6
☐ IEEE 1680.2 – Imaging Equipment	
☐ IEEE 1680.3 – Televisions	

PVC Determination:
Parts that are permanently joined during manufacture by welding, adhesive, or other means, and can not be easily separated are considered one part. Therefore, two enclosure parts consisting of different plastic materials that are permanently joined during manufacture to create a combined part greater than 100g would not meet 4.3.1.6.

Background Analysis:
Criterion 4.3.1.6 – Optional – Reduced number of plastic materials types.

Product criterion: Only one plastic material type shall be used in each plastic enclosure part > 100g.

Question: If you have two separate plastic enclosure parts, each of a different plastic type, that are thermoset bonded together to create a part greater than 100g, would that part meet 4.3.1.6?

The subject of Clarification 7-1 is similar to this question although in reference to a different criterion. In Clarification 7-1, the question was whether the top and bottom covers of a notebook power adapter were considered to be two independent plastic pieces or if the ultrasonic seal of the adapter created a single part. It was the determination of the PVC that the weight reference applied to each component of the product as shipped, after all manufacturing has been completed, and therefore, the ultrasonic sealing of two plastic pieces created a single part.

Using this clarification as a basis for the new question, the two parts that are bonded together using a thermoset adhesive during manufacturing would constitute one single part as shipped. This same logic would apply for any permanent adhesive or other means of permanently joining the two parts such as thermal or ultrasonic welding.

Change History:
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