



**EPEAT Clarification #5-2
regarding calculation of recycled content**

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

- 4.2.1.1, 4.2.1.2 & 4.2.1.3
- 4.2.1.1, 4.2.1.2 & 4.2.1.3
- 4.2.1.1, 4.2.1.2 & 4.2.1.3

PVC Clarification:

Recovered plastic parts or material that enter the manufacturing process, but are not included in the resulting plastic material that is used in the product, shall not be counted as recycled content in the product.

Determination of the recycled content of a plastic material in a product shall be a simplified mass balance that determines the weight of recycled material that enters the manufacturing process and calculates the weight of recycled material that is included in the “total plastic (by weight) in each product” (wording from the standard).

Rationale:

The criteria clearly refer to the recycled content of the product declared to EPEAT. Therefore, any portion of recovered plastic material that is discarded or diverted to another application would not be included in this calculation.

Background:

How shall the amount of recycled feedstock be calculated in the case where the recycled feedstock material is separated into parts (either at the molecular or material level) and only some portion of the feedstock is incorporated into the final plastic? Should the full weight of recycled plastic entering the plastic manufacturing process be counted, or only the portion that makes it into the final plastic used in the product?

Some plastic manufacturing processes break down recovered plastic materials into their chemical constituents and then reformulate resins using these chemical feedstocks. Likewise, recovered plastic parts may be separated by resin type for further processing. In either case, a portion of the incoming material stream may be discarded or used in another application.

Change History:

Created: June 2008

Updated: February 2013