



**EPEAT Clarification #6-2
regarding rounding methodologies as relates to meeting threshold requirements**

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

- 4.2.1.2, 4.2.1.3 & 4.2.2.2
- 4.2.1.2, 4.2.1.3, 4.2.1.4 & 4.2.2.2
- 4.2.1.2, 4.2.1.3, 4.2.1.4 & 4.2.2.2

PVC Determination:

When the standard sets a threshold of a specified amount, or of a percentage, for a specified quantity, the threshold cannot be said to be met if the actual amount is rounded up from below (or down from above) that amount. For example, a threshold of 10% recycled plastic means that the amount of recycled plastic must be at least 10%. The calculated value of recycled plastic must be at or above the stated threshold. Rounding a percentage up to the threshold is not allowed.

Subscribers must report the specified quantity with the highest level of accuracy their measurements allow, following standard engineering practice for significant digits.

A threshold is signified by language such as the following, or its equivalent:

- A floor: “greater than”, “>”, “a minimum of”, “not less than”, “minimum”.
- A ceiling: “less than” “<”, “a maximum of”, “not more than”, “shall not exceed”, “maximum”.

Background Analysis:

The following was received from a subscriber:

I am being asked for clarification to a specific example where we have calculated a PCC for plastic as being 9.99%. What guidance would you give me to pass along to our design team? Do they have to reformulate to be at least or higher or is there a provision for rounding.

The applicable provision in the standard reads: “Product shall contain on average a minimum of 10% postconsumer recycled plastic”.

The standard sets a threshold of 10%, not a specific value to be achieved. Therefore it is not valid to round up to that amount in a declaration of conformance. If the standard were to specify an amount to be achieved (no examples are identified), then normal rounding practice would apply.

Change History:

Created: January 2010

Updated: February 2013