



EXPLANATION OF EPEAT REQUIREMENTS FOR RECYCLER CERTIFICATION

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EPEAT requirements for qualifying recycling services vary across the current three product categories.

PC/Display Requirements

In the **PC/Display** standard, requirements for recyclers processing end-of-life equipment are based on an older set of US EPA guidelines, developed at a time when no e-recycling certification programs were available. These “Plug In to e-cycling” guidelines, found [here](#) and summarized [here](#) on the EPEAT website, are fairly straightforward for recyclers to meet at this time. They do not require recycler certification, and provide significant flexibility to enable EPEAT registration of PCs & Displays worldwide, with some effort to ensure recyclers are following the guidelines’ requirements. (EPEAT maintains a list of [recycler standards and programs](#) that have been found to comply with the PlugIn requirements and may be used to meet this criterion.) In-depth auditing of recycling vendors is contained in a more challenging optional criterion, but is not required for PC/Display product registration.

Imaging Equipment and Television Requirements

Requirements for recyclers in the **Imaging Equipment (IE) and TV** standards are more stringent and more in line with current best practice. Both require *manufacturers to recycle products using service providers certified to a qualified recycler performance standard by a certification body that is accredited to conduct that certification by an IAF-member accreditation body*. The process for qualifying a recycler performance standard is described in the IEEE standards and has been implemented by EPEAT. To date, R2, e-Stewards and WEEELABEX standards have been so qualified.

R2 and e-Stewards Certified Recyclers

Both the [R2](#) and [e-Stewards](#) programs use an IAF-member accreditation body, [ANAB](#), to accredit Certification Bodies (CBs) to certify recyclers within their respective schemes. ANAB has accredited a number of global CBs that are able to certify recyclers to R2 and e-Stewards standards worldwide. The specific CBs can be found on the programs’ websites.

In countries where there are no R2 or e-Stewards certified recyclers, manufacturers can enable EPEAT registration of IE and TVs by requiring recycling service provider audits to these recycling standards and supporting recyclers to become certified (see below). Alternately, the manufacturer can export end-of-life IE and TV equipment to certified facilities in other countries, where that trade between the specific countries is legal.



Imaging and TV “Grace Period” Clause and R2, e-Stewards

In countries that do not have an R2 or e-Stewards certified recycler operating in-country or available for export, the EPEAT system offers some flexibility to enable EPEAT registration of Imaging Equipment and TVs through a “grace period” clause in the IE and TV standards. That clause enables manufacturers to register products in a given country for 18 months using recyclers who are **audited** to an EPEAT-qualified standard, if there are no recyclers operating in that country that are **certified** to a qualified standard by an IAF-member accredited CB. At the end of that 18 month time period, the recycler used must progress to being certified to a qualified standard by an IAF accredited CB or the manufacturer’s registered products must be inactivated until such time as the recycler achieves that certification.

In summary, a manufacturer can meet the EPEAT recycler requirements for IE and TVs, in any country where its products are taken back and recycled by R2 and/or or e-Stewards certified recycler(s). Both programs maintain lists and maps of certified recyclers on their websites.

WEEELABEX Recyclers

The [WEEELABEX](#) standard meets the PlugIn requirements (for the PC standard) and is EPEAT-qualified to support registration of IE and TVs. However, the WEEELABEX scheme does not yet have CBs accredited by an IAF member accreditation body, as required for IE and TV registration.

WEEELABEX is in the process of enabling an IAF member accreditation body to accredit CBs to conduct WEEELABEX certification. When this is completed, accredited CBs will be available to provide WEEELABEX certification services, and manufacturers will be able to meet EPEAT end-of-life requirements for Imaging and TV products using recycler(s) certified to WEEELABEX as well as R2 and e-Stewards.

WEEELABEX and the IE/TV Grace Period

Multiple recyclers throughout the EU have been audited to the WEEELABEX standard for some time, and WEEELABEX expects the first CBs to be accredited in EU countries by mid-2016. In countries where their Imaging and Television products are recycled by WEEELABEX audited recyclers, and where there are no recyclers certified to R2 or e-Stewards, manufacturers may begin registering IE and TVs in 2015 with the *expectation* those recyclers will become appropriately certified within 18 months of product registration. (You may wish to integrate this expectation into the contractual agreement.) As explained above, if a recycler was not certified to WEEELABEX (or R2 or e-Stewards) after 18 months, this would require inactivation of registered products until the recycler becomes certified. (EPEAT can offer no guarantee that specific recyclers will become WEEELABEX certified by an accredited CB within the 18 month grace period.)

WEEELABEX has and will continue to maintain a [central listing](#) of all recyclers audited or certified by the accredited CBs. We encourage interested parties to contact the WEEELABEX organization and listed recycling providers directly to ask about future plans and expected timelines for certification.