

Sample Questions that Go Beyond the EPEAT Standards For Federal Government Purchasers of IT Equipment

Federal agencies are required to purchase EPEAT registered computer and IT equipment. But the EPEAT Standard is now outdated and is not a reflection of true leadership in this industry. Purchasers should select computers, laptop or notebook computers, and computer monitors that score at least on the BRONZE tier under EPEAT, but then include some additional questions in their RFPs.

The following is a sample of the types of questions that the federal government could ask of their suppliers to allow for comparison and greater differentiation among products based on key environmental attributes. Use of these questions also sends an important market signal to the electronics industry about the federal government's priorities and will help to create market pressure and competition to create more environmentally preferable products.

| Question | Answer Format | Further Information |
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| Design for Environment, End-of-Life & Product Longevity | | |
| Does the product contain at least 10% postconsumer recycled plastic that is derived from waste electrical and electronic products (WEEE), calculated as a percentage of total plastic (by weight) in the product? If yes, please disclose the minimum amount used. | Yes/No (If yes, minimum %) | The following may be excluded from the calculation of percentage: PCBs, labels, cables, connectors, electronic components, optical components, electrostatic discharge (ESD) components, and electromagnetic interference (EMI) components. Products that do not contain plastics can declare "Not Applicable." |
| Do you ensure that spare and/or compatible parts for our product are available for at least five years after the end of production? | Yes/No | Information on how to obtain spare and/or compatible parts (or, at the manufacturer's option, compatible parts from a different supplier) must be provided. (Similar to EPEAT 4.4.3.1) |
| Please identify the top 5 components in your product that have the lowest time between failures and provide the MTBF data for each component. | 5 components with MTBF rates | Mean Time Between Failure (MTBF) |
| Chemicals and Materials of Concern in the Product | | |
| Provide a list of the metals or compounds of high interest that are intentionally added to the product and indicate their source (country of origin), when known. | List each metal or compound of high interest and indicate the source. | Metals of high interest are: antimony, arsenic, beryllium, cerium, cobalt, dysprosium, erbium, europium, gadolinium, gallium, germanium, gold, holmium, indium, iridium, lanthanum, lithium, lutetium, manganese, neodymium, niobium, osmium, palladium, platinum, praseodymium, promethium, rhenium, rhodium, ruthenium, samarium, silver, strontium, tantalum, tellurium, terbium, thulium, tin, ytterbium, and zinc. |

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| Do you know 90% or more of the chemical and material ingredients in this product by weight? | Yes/No | |
| Do you use an alternatives assessment methodology (such as the U.S. EPA's Design For the Environment Alternatives Assessment method) to inform your chemicals and materials selection? Please list the methodology used. | Yes/No | United States Environmental Protection Agency's Design for the Environment Alternatives Assessment Criteria for Hazard Evaluation http://www.epa.gov/dfe/alternatives_assessment_criteria_hazard_eval_jan2011_final_draft3.pdf |
| Do all the homogeneous parts in your product fall below the 1000 parts per million (ppm) threshold for bromine? | Yes/No/Don't Know | Companies that have chosen to eliminate bromine from their products may still allow trace amounts, up to 1000 ppm, or 0.1% by weight, per homogeneous material. |
| Do all the homogeneous parts in your product fall below the 1000 parts per million (ppm) threshold for chlorine? | Yes/No/Don't Know | Companies that have chosen to eliminate chlorine from their products may still allow trace amounts, up to 1000 ppm, or 0.1% by weight, per homogeneous material. |
| Phthalates: Does the product contain any components in which phthalates are intentionally added? If yes, please list phthalates used. | Yes/No (If Yes, please list) | |
| Primary and Secondary Packaging | | |
| Is the product's primary and secondary packaging free of polystyrene? | Yes/No | |
| Is the product's primary and secondary packaging free of PVC ? | Yes/No | |
| Please provide the overall postconsumer recycled content (PCR) percentage by weight for the product's primary and secondary packaging? | Yes/No | |
| Is a packaging takeback or reusable shipping container program available for this product? | Yes/No | |
| Energy Use | | |
| What is the "standby" mode (or "sleep" mode) power consumption for this product, in watts? | # of watts | |
| What is the "on" or "active" mode electrical energy or consumption for this product in watts? | # of watts | On mode is defined as the state for which at least one of the main functions providing the intended |

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| | | service of the equipment has been activated. |
| If an Energy Star specification exists for this product, and includes a Typical Energy Consumption (TEC) limit, what percentage of Energy Star TEC limit does this product use? | Percent | |
| What is the power supply efficiency? Please note whether product has internal or external power supply. | For internal: Not certified 80-Plus / Bronze / Silver / Gold / Platinum For external: Efficiency mark (IV, V or higher). | |
| Product TakeBack and Recycling | | |
| For each of your recycling streams, are your recycling vendors certified to the e-Stewards Standard for Responsible Electronics Recycling? | Options for each category: A. Yes, all these vendors are certified e-Stewards B. All these vendors are certified e-Stewards or in the process of being certified to e-Stewards C. No | |
| - Products returned to your asset recovery program | A B or C (see above) | The e-Stewards standard is the highest standard in the electronics recycling industry. Because there are few laws regulating this industry, the best measure of responsible recycling is certification to the e-Stewards standard. Because this is a fairly new standard, many companies are in the process of becoming certified, but their audits are not yet complete. |
| - Products returned via lease returns | A B or C (see above) | |
| - Products returned via consumer takeback programs | A B or C (see above) | |
| - Products returned via trade-in or buy-back programs or partnerships | A B or C (see above) | |
| - Products returned via any other stream | A B or C (see above) | |
| Who are the recycling vendors you use? | List all | |