

# Standards and Certification for Recyclers of Electronics

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# Electronic Recycling:

- The Federal Government and many others are promoting recycling.
  - We need assurances that recycling will be environmentally sound
- Recyclers Expect:
  - Fair competition and efficient auditing
- What We Are Working Towards:
  - A generally accepted program that can identify reliable electronic recyclers



# Standards for Recyclers

- **Several Best Management Practices or Standards exist and more are in development**
  - **EPAs PLUG-IN GUIDELINES**
  - **NEPSI GUIDELINES**
  - **OECD GUIDELINES**
  - **TRADE ASSOCIATION (IAER, ISRI) STANDARDS/BMPs**
  - **ENVIRONMENTALIST “PLEDGE”**
  - **VARIOUS STATE STANDARDS**
  - **VARIOUS MANUFACTURER POLICIES**



# Conformity Assessment: Who Checks If Standards Are Being Followed?

- Some self-certify
  - Environmentalists pledge
- Manufacturers audit the recyclers they use
  - Due diligence
- Federal READ contract
  - EPA/ contract personnel audit each recycler
- Recycling trade organization (IAER) has a certification program



# Is Your Recycler “EPA certified”?

Though some recyclers might  
claim so on the websites.....

EPA does not have a program in  
place that certifies the practices  
of e-waste recyclers.



# EPA as Convener

- March 2005: Electronic certification identified as priority issue at National meeting
- October 2005: Initial discussion convened by EPA at E-Scrap:
  - Participants include: Federal/State, Manufacturers, Retailers, Public Interest, Re-Users, Refurbishers, Recyclers, and Purchasers of Recycling Services
- January 2006: EPA engaged outside facilitator for follow up discussion in DC



# Current Status

- Working towards Voluntary Consensus Standards and Certification Process
  - Building on existing information and processes
  - Engaging a broad range of stakeholders
  - Anticipating certification by third party organizations
- Small group tasked with:
  - Identifying current “best practices”
  - Identifying gaps
  - Investigating the ANSI standards development process
  - Reporting to full stakeholder group Spring, 2006

# EPA's Has Several Roles

- Convener: Of the multi-stakeholder group and technical experts
- Participant: Active in helping to develop the standards and certification program
- Supporter: Will promote use of standards and certification
- Purchaser: Use recycling services from recyclers that have been certified



# Some Issues

- Environmental standards
  - Going beyond EMS
  - Hazardous waste going into the solid waste system
- Competition
  - Allowing smaller recyclers to compete
  - Pollution liability coverage and financial assurances
- Auditing:
  - How does the program ensure “good behavior” beyond the initial recycler?



# Some More Issues

- Certification:
  - A tiered system? How high is the bar?
  - Who performs the audits?
  - A role for self certification?
- Scope: What issues should the group address?
  - Privacy/data security?
  - Control of exports?
  - Prison labor?



# Working with Federal Agencies

- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
  - Consultant on conformity assessments
  - Advisor on data sanitization (security) decision tree guidance
- Occupational Standards and Health Administration (OSHA)
  - Identify worker standards and protection
- Department of Justice
  - Federal Prison Labor: UNICOR
- Office of the Federal Environmental Executive
  - Promoting recycling
- Others...



# Questions?

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