



Answers to Frequent Questions: ENERGY STAR® and EPEAT™

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PURPOSE

This fact sheet provides answers to frequent questions about the relationship between ENERGY STAR® and the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT™); and how federal agencies can ensure they purchase or lease electronic products with attributes required by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Executive Order 13423, and the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 23.

INTRODUCTION

EPEAT is a system to help purchasers evaluate, compare and select desktop computers, laptops and monitors based on their environmental attributes. The EPEAT Registry includes products that have been declared by their manufacturers to be in conformance with the environmental performance standard for electronic products - Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 1680-2006. Electronic products in the EPEAT Registry are "EPEAT-registered." EPEAT currently registers only computer desktops, laptops and monitors.

ENERGY STAR defines energy efficiency specifications for over 50 products and services, and qualifies specific products as meeting the ENERGY STAR specifications. ENERGY STAR maintains lists of products that meet their respective ENERGY STAR specification. Electronic products on these product lists are "ENERGY STAR qualified."

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires federal agencies to buy ENERGY STAR qualified products, including computer desktops, laptops and monitors. Executive Order 13423 requires federal agencies to purchase electronic products registered with EPEAT, when a standard is available for the product. These ENERGY STAR and EPEAT purchasing requirements are codified by FAR Part 23.

FREQUENT QUESTIONS

How is ENERGY STAR qualification incorporated into the EPEAT standard, IEEE 1680?

ENERGY STAR qualification is included in both the required and optional criteria of the IEEE 1680-2006 Standard.

Required criteria 4.5.1.1 is *"All covered products shall comply with the version of U.S. ENERGY STAR that is applicable at the time of declaration. If an ENERGY STAR specification is modified, presently registered products shall have six months to update their declaration to the new version."*

All EPEAT Bronze, Silver and Gold registered products must be ENERGY STAR qualified.

Optional criteria 4.5.1.2 is *"All covered products shall qualify and be certified to a new ENERGY STAR specification in advance of its effective date. This early adopter point, limited*



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to one for a product, will be retained after the ENERGY STAR specification becomes required under criterion 4.5.1.1.”

EPEAT-registered products can obtain an optional criteria point by meeting all the requirements of a new or revised ENERGY STAR specification that has been adopted but has not gone into effect.

Are all EPEAT-registered products ENERGY STAR qualified, and vice versa?

All EPEAT-registered products are, by definition, ENERGY STAR qualified. Not all ENERGY STAR qualified products are EPEAT-registered, because EPEAT includes other required environmental attributes in addition to energy efficiency.

When an ENERGY STAR specification is revised, there may be a time delay between the adoption of the revised specification and when EPEAT-registered products must meet the revised specification. Please see the next question for more information.

What happens when an ENERGY STAR specification is revised?

Between the date of adoption of the revised ENERGY STAR specification and its effective date, EPEAT-registered products may obtain the 4.5.1.2 optional criteria point by meeting all the requirements of the revised ENERGY STAR specification.

Currently, there is a grace period associated with the release of a new ENERGY STAR specification. Starting with the effective date of the revised ENERGY STAR specification, manufacturers are provided a six month grace period to either 1) declare that their registered product(s) meet the revised ENERGY STAR specification, or 2) remove their registered product(s) from the EPEAT Registry.

Which pertinent ENERGY STAR specifications have been recently revised?

On July 20, 2007, ENERGY STAR's new specification for computers (Version 4.0, Tier 1) went into effect. The new specification applies to a variety of computer products including:

- Desktop computers
- Notebook (or laptop) computers
- Game consoles
- Integrated computer systems
- Desktop-derived servers
- Workstations

Qualified computer products must now meet energy use guidelines in three distinct operating modes: standby (off mode), sleep mode, and while computers are being used. Qualified computers must also include a more efficient power supply.

Which pertinent ENERGY STAR specifications are being developed or are undergoing revision?

ENERGY STAR is engaged in the revision or development of the following specifications, which will impact EPEAT-registered products:

- Version 4.0, Tier 2 for computers, scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2009.
- Version 5.0 for monitors, anticipated to go into effect in July 2009.

ENERGY STAR is engaged in the revision or development of the following specifications, which may impact the development of new EPEAT standards:

- Version 1.0, Tier 2 for imaging products (printers, copiers, multifunction devices, scanners, facsimile machines, etc), scheduled to go into effect April 2009.
- Version 3.0 for television products (finalized on February 4, 2008). Tier 1 of the new Version 3.0 specification is scheduled to go into effect on November 1, 2008.
- A new product specification for enterprise servers, anticipated to go into effect in fall or winter of 2008.

How did the revised ENERGY STAR computer specification affect EPEAT-registered computer products?

Computer products registered before July 20, 2007 with the ENERGY STAR 3.0 qualification declared were permitted to stay on the EPEAT Registry for six months, until January 20, 2008. Between July 20, 2007 and January 20, 2008, manufacturers were required to either 1) declare that their registered product(s) met ENERGY STAR 4.0, or 2) remove their registered product(s) from the EPEAT Registry. Computer products that obtained a point for optional criteria 4.5.1.2, for early adoption of ENERGY STAR 4.0, were permitted to keep this optional point.

On January 21, 2008 the Green Electronics Council removed computer products from the EPEAT registry that did not meet the revised ENERGY STAR computer specification. As of January 22, 2008, all computer products listed in the EPEAT Registry are qualified under the newest ENERGY STAR specification for their product category (ENERGY STAR 4.0 Tier 1 for desktops and laptops, ENERGY STAR 4.1 Tier 2 for monitors).

How do these changes affect our contract for the purchase or lease of EPEAT-registered or ENERGY STAR qualified products?

The effect will depend on the language in your contract.

If you specified "ENERGY STAR 3.0 qualified" products, you may only receive products that were qualified for ENERGY STAR 3.0. These products may no longer be qualified under ENERGY STAR 4.0, and thus may not meet federal purchasing requirements. If you specified "ENERGY STAR qualified," you should only receive products that are qualified for the most recent ENERGY STAR specification. ENERGY STAR does not maintain a list of products qualified under previous ENERGY STAR specifications.



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If you specified “EPEAT-registered” products, you should only receive products that are EPEAT-registered. All EPEAT-registered products are now ENERGY STAR 4.0 qualified, so simply requiring EPEAT-registered products will ensure that you meet all federal requirements for the purchase of EPEAT-registered and ENERGY STAR qualified products, as they pertain to computer desktops, laptops and monitors. You will still need to require “ENERGY STAR qualified” products for electronics not currently registered by EPEAT.

How do I ensure proper credit for the purchase of ENERGY STAR qualified products, for the purpose of meeting the requirements of the Energy Policy Act of 2005?

Purchase of products that are qualified to the current ENERGY STAR specification for that product is necessary for meeting the requirements of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

How do I ensure proper credit for the purchase of EPEAT-registered products, for the purpose of reporting to the Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC) or applying for an FEC annual award?

Federal agencies will receive credit for EPEAT-registered purchases, if the purchased products were EPEAT-registered at the time of purchase.

How do I ensure proper credit for the purchase of EPEAT-registered products, for the purpose of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Environmental Scorecard?

The OMB Environmental Scorecard evaluates whether each federal agency has procured 95% of EPEAT-registered electronic products, in accordance with Executive Order 13423 and the Implementing Instructions.

Federal agencies will receive credit for EPEAT-registered purchases, if the purchased products were EPEAT-registered at the time of purchase.

REFERENCES

Information about the status of new, and revisions to existing, ENERGY STAR specifications are available on the ENERGY STAR Web site:

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=prod_development.prod_development_index.

Information about the ENERGY STAR specifications, including a qualified product lists, are available on the ENERGY STAR Web site:

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=find_a_product.

Additional information about product purchasing and computer power management for federal agencies is available at: <http://www.energystar.gov/fedofficeenergy>.



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Information about EPEAT, including the standard and the Product Registry is available on the EPEAT Web site: <http://www.epeat.net/>. The EPEAT Web site includes a page with additional information about EPEAT and ENERGY STAR at: <http://www.epeat.net/EnergyStar.aspx>.

The text of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 is available online from U.S. Government Printing Office at: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/>.

The text of Executive Order 13423 and the Implementing Instructions are available at: <http://www.fedcenter.gov/programs/eo13423>.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions related to this resource or need other assistance with the Federal Electronics Challenge, please contact your Regional Champion. The list of FEC Regional Champions is available at <http://www.federalelectronicschallenge.net/champions.htm>.

Partners may also request technical assistance by sending an email to: partner@electronicschallenge.net.

FEDERAL ELECTRONICS CHALLENGE

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