

PURPOSE

This resource provides answers to questions from federal employees about the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT®). Acquisition of EPEAT-registered electronic products is required for all federal organizations, including Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC) Partners.

ELECTRONIC PRODUCT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT TOOL (EPEAT)

EPEAT is an easy-to-use evaluation tool that allows for the comparison and selection of electronic products based on environmental attributes. EPEAT-registered products meet minimum performance standards in areas such as energy efficiency, toxicity reduction, and material selection.



EPEAT currently registers computer desktops (including integrated desktop computers, thin clients and desktop workstations), monitors and notebook computers (including notebook workstations and tablets). Imaging equipment (printers, copiers, multifunction devices, fax machines, mailing machines) and televisions will be available at the beginning of 2013.

Executive Order 13514, *Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance* and Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), Subpart 23.704 both require federal acquisition of EPEAT-registered electronic products.

Federal agencies must require EPEAT-registered products: in contract specifications for the purchase or lease of personal computer products; when purchasing applicable products from agency Blanket Purchase Agreements or Government-Wide Acquisition Contracts; and when otherwise acquiring applicable products, such as through purchase card procurements.

How does EPEAT Work?

EPEAT evaluates electronic products according to three tiers of environmental performance – Bronze, Silver and Gold. The complete set of criteria includes both required criteria and optional criteria in a number of performance categories:

1. Reduction/Elimination of Environmentally Sensitive Materials
2. Materials Selection
3. Design for End of Life
4. Product Longevity/Life Cycle Extension
5. Energy Conservation
6. End of Life Management
7. Corporate Performance
8. Packaging
9. Consumables (for imaging equipment only)
10. Indoor Air Quality (for imaging equipment only)

To be registered under EPEAT, a product must conform to all the required criteria. A manufacturer can pick and choose among the optional criteria to boost their total product "score" to achieve a higher-ranking level as follows:



Bronze: Product meets all required criteria

Silver: Product meets all required criteria plus at least 50% of available optional criteria

Gold: Product meets all required criteria plus at least 75% of available optional criteria

The three-tier system provides manufacturers with the flexibility to improve the environmental performance of their products over time. When new or revised standards are available, the majority of products are expected to be Bronze registered. As the standard remains in place, increasing numbers of products can, and are, Silver and Gold registered. When the majority of products on the registry are Gold registered, there is adequate justification to update the supporting standard to require increased environmental performance.

EPEAT is structured to allow manufacturers to self-declare that their products meet EPEAT requirements. EPEAT operates a web-based product declaration system for manufacturers; implements a verification system to ensure accuracy and credibility; and provides a listing of all registered products for purchasers.

To ensure that the self-declaration system functions in a transparent and verifiable manner, EPEAT regularly and randomly selects registered products and standard criteria to verify product conformance with the applicable standard.

What are the benefits to purchasers using EPEAT?

EPEAT simplifies the process of purchasing environmentally preferable electronics for federal agencies and other purchasers.

- EPEAT **identifies specific environmental attributes** required for registered products. For purchasers, this eliminates the complex and time-consuming process of deciding what constitutes a “green” product and how to evaluate bids against environmental criteria.
- EPEAT provides a **searchable database of EPEAT-registered products** that allows purchasers to quickly survey the market to determine product availability, and if there are a sufficient number of EPEAT-registered product offerings that meet their performance requirements.
- EPEAT establishes an **evaluation and verification system** to assure purchasers that a registered product meets the applicable environmental standard. Purchasers only need to verify that a product is active in the EPEAT database of registered products, and leave the evaluation and verification process to third-party certification organizations.

How do I purchase EPEAT-registered electronic products?

Federal agencies and facilities have several options for purchasing EPEAT-registered products, depending on their agency procurement methods:

- Purchase from your agency **Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPA)** that provides EPEAT-registered products.
- Utilize a **Government-Wide Acquisition Contract (GWAC)** that provides EPEAT-registered products.
- Require EPEAT-registered products in facility or agency **Request for Proposals (RFPs) and purchasing contracts**. Model Contract Language is available at the FEC website: http://www.epa.gov/fec/resources/epeat_contract.pdf (for computers and displays) and http://www.epa.gov/fec/resources/epeat_contract_ietv.pdf (for imaging equipment and televisions).
- Purchase EPEAT-registered products through **GSA Advantage!** EPEAT-registered products are labeled and can be directly searched for through the GSA Environmental Program at: <https://www.gsaadvantage.gov/advantage/search/specialCategory.do?cat=ADV.ENV>.
- Purchase EPEAT-registered products through **another vendor that identifies EPEAT-registered products** in their online and/or print catalogues.

How does use of EPEAT meet FEC and other federal requirements?

The FEC encourages Partners to improve the life cycle management of electronic products, including equipment procurement.

Purchase of EPEAT-registered products is required to be reported each year in the FEC Annual Reporting Form. By purchasing EPEAT-registered products, Partners can also meet one of the FEC Award Mandatory Activities:

- Ensure that 95 percent of computer desktops, laptops and monitors purchased or leased this year are EPEAT-registered products.

Using EPEAT also fulfills other federal requirements for sustainable acquisition, including:

- The FAR Subpart 23.704, which requires acquisition of EPEAT-registered electronic products.
- Executive Order 13514, *Federal Leadership in Environment, Energy, and Economic Performance*, which requires federal agencies to ensure procurement preference for EPEAT-registered electronic products.
- The National Technology Transfer Advancement Act (NTTAA) and the OMB Circular A-119, which direct federal agencies to use voluntary, consensus standards for regulatory and procurement activities. EPEAT utilizes a family of American National Standards, known as IEEE 1680. IEEE is an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited organization, and any standard developed by this organization is verified as meeting the ANSI essential requirements in following an open and consensus based standards development process, thus in compliance with NTTAA requirements.

How do I quantify the environmental benefits of purchasing EPEAT-registered electronic products?

The Electronics Environmental Benefits Calculator (EEBC) is available to assist in estimating the environmental benefits of purchasing EPEAT-registered products, compared to conventional products. This information can be used in the planning phase to justify EPEAT purchases, or periodically to document the results of efforts to improve the life cycle of electronic products. The EEBC is available for download at: <http://www.epa.gov/fec/publications.html#calculator>.

To run the EEBC, users need the number of EPEAT-registered products purchased, and if possible, the number of products meeting each of the three EPEAT rating tiers (Bronze, Silver, Gold). A fact sheet on entering the data collected in the FEC Annual Reporting Form in the EEBC is available on the FEC website: http://www.epa.gov/fec/resources/arf_eebc.pdf.

REFERENCES

The text of Executive Order 13514 is available at: <http://www.fedcenter.gov/programs/eo13514/>.

The FAR is available at: <https://www.acquisition.gov/far/>.

Information about the FEC awards process is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/fec/awards.html>.

Information regarding the National Technology Transfer Advancement Act is available at: <http://gsi.nist.gov/global/index.cfm/L1-3/L2-6/A-166>.

The text of OMB Circular A-119 is available at: <http://standards.gov/a119.cfm>.

Information about ANSI is available at their website: <http://www.ansi.org/>.

Information about IEEE is available at their website: <http://www.ieee.org/>.



EPEAT® for Federal Purchasers

Updated: 6/18/2012

More information about EPEAT is available at their website: <http://www.epeat.net/>.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions related to this resource or need other assistance with the Federal Electronics Challenge, please contact your Regional Champion: <http://www.epa.gov/fec/technical.html>.

Visit the FEC online: <http://www.epa.gov/fec/>

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