



Answers to Frequent Questions: ENERGY STAR® 4.0 and EPEAT™

Updated: 09/14/2007

PURPOSE

This fact sheet provides answers to frequent questions about ENERGY STAR® 4.0; how this new computer specification integrates with computer products registered with the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT™); and how federal agencies can ensure they purchase or lease computer products with specifications required by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and Executive Order 13423.

INTRODUCTION

EPEAT is a system to help purchasers evaluate, compare and select desktop computers, laptops and monitors based on their environmental attributes. ENERGY STAR defines energy efficiency standards for a variety of products and services, and qualifies specific products as meeting the ENERGY STAR standards.

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. EPEAT currently registers computer desktops, laptops and monitors, all of which must be ENERGY STAR qualified to be registered.

On July 20, 2007, ENERGY STAR updated their qualification requirements for computers. This new standard, ENERGY STAR 4.0, will have an effect on computer products that are, or will be, registered with EPEAT.

FREQUENT QUESTIONS

What is the new ENERGY STAR computer specification?

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

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

The ENERGY STAR qualification requirements for monitors have NOT changed.

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

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 Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 1680 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 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 a new ENERGY STAR standard prior to the effective date. Please note that this optional criteria point is not currently available, please see clarification below.

Which EPEAT-registered products are affected by the new ENERGY STAR 4.0 specification?

Desktop and laptop/notebook computers are affected. Monitors are NOT affected.

How do ENERGY STAR 4.0 requirements affect computer products that were EPEAT-registered prior to July 20, 2007?

Computer products registered before July 20, 2007 with the ENERGY STAR 3.0 qualification declared may stay on the EPEAT Registry for six months, until January 20, 2008. Between July 20, 2007 and January 20, 2008, manufacturers may either 1) declare that their registered product(s) now meet 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, may keep this optional point.

How do ENERGY STAR 4.0 requirements affect new computer products that are registered with EPEAT after July 20, 2007?

Computer products registered after July 20, 2007 must be declared as conforming with ENERGY STAR 4.0 in order to meet required criteria 4.5.1.1.

Computer products registered after July 20, 2007 will no longer be able to obtain optional criteria 4.5.1.2 because the next ENERGY STAR specification has not been defined.



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How do I find EPEAT-registered products that are also ENERGY STAR 4.0 qualified between now and January 20, 2008?

The EPEAT Web site has a special search function that can search the EPEAT Registry for computer desktops, laptops and/or integrated systems that are currently ENERGY STAR 4.0 qualified: <http://www.epeat.net/EnergyStar.aspx>.

Will computer products be pulled off the EPEAT registry if they do not meet ENERGY STAR 4.0?

Yes, on January 20, 2008. Between July 20, 2007 and January 20, 2008, manufacturers may either 1) declare that their registered product(s) now meet ENERGY STAR 4.0, or 2) remove their registered product(s) from the EPEAT Registry.

All EPEAT-registered computer products that are not declared as compliant to ENERGY STAR 4.0 will be removed from the Registry on January 20, 2008.

How will these changes affect our contract for the purchase or lease of EPEAT-registered or ENERGY STAR qualified products, after July 20, 2007?

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. If you specified "ENERGY STAR qualified," you should only receive products that are qualified for ENERGY STAR 4.0. ENERGY STAR does not maintain a list of products previously qualified under ENERGY STAR 3.0.

If you specified "EPEAT-registered" products, you should only receive products that are EPEAT-registered. However, between July 20, 2007 and January 20, 2008, these EPEAT-registered products may NOT be ENERGY STAR 4.0 qualified. Check with the manufacturer to confirm ENERGY STAR qualification under 4.0. If possible, consider adding a requirement for ENERGY STAR qualified products, in addition to EPEAT-registered products, for products acquired during this time period (e.g., in task orders, contract renewals, etc.). Requiring both EPEAT-registered and ENERGY STAR qualified products is only necessary until January 20, 2008.

After January 20, 2008, all EPEAT-registered computer desktops and laptops/notebooks will be ENERGY STAR 4.0 qualified. After January 20, 2008, simply requiring EPEAT-registered products will ensure that you meet all federal requirements for the purchase of EPEAT-registered and ENERGY STAR qualified products.

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 computer products that are ENERGY STAR 4.0 qualified is necessary for meeting the requirements of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.



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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 for January 2008 will evaluate 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 ENERGY STAR 4.0 computer specification, including a qualified product list, is available on the ENERGY STAR Web site:

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=find_a_product.ShowProductGroup&pgw_code=CO.

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

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, and the ENERGY STAR 4.0 search function: <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>.



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

FEDERAL ELECTRONICS CHALLENGE

Web site: <http://www.federalelectronicschallenge.net/>
E-mail: info@electronicschallenge.net