Responsible Recycling (R2)
Practices for Use In Accredited Certification Programs

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What are the R2 Practices?

- Stakeholder effort to develop one set of practices
- Based mostly on environmental, worker safety, and public health practices
- Includes 13 general principles, and specific practices for recyclers to follow
- Practices will be the basis of a voluntary certification program or programs
What is the Status of R2?

- Development is complete

- It is posted on the internet at [http://www.decideagree.com](http://www.decideagree.com) and [www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/materials/ecycling/r2practices.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/materials/ecycling/r2practices.htm)

- EPA encourages recyclers to conform their practices to the document

- Working group will identify mechanisms to certify recyclers to the practices
What does R2 Cover?

- E-Waste: electronic equipment includes computers, peripherals, cell phones, televisions
- Materials getting specific “focus” include
  - Cathode Ray Tubes
  - Circuit boards
  - Batteries
  - Items containing mercury/PCBs
What’s in the R2 practices?

- Environmental, Health and Safety Management System Is Needed

- Reuse and Recycling are preferred over disposal

- Comply with all Federal, State, Local Laws and make sure Exports of Focus Materials are Legal
R2 Practices Continued...

- On-Site Health and Safety

- Reuse vs Refurbishment, Testing and Packaging of Materials
R2 Practices Continued...

- Ensure that focus materials are not incinerated or landfilled
- Exercise due diligence, ensure that downstream recyclers and processors manage focus materials appropriately throughout the recycling chain
R2 Practices Continued…

- Destroy, purge or sanitize data from memory
- Track throughput and recordkeeping;
- store and transport materials securely and safely; and
- possess insurance, closure plans and financial mechanisms to cover the potential risks of the facility.
Details on Export

- Recycler’s responsibility extends to conducting due diligence to international markets; and
- Recycler must show documentation that export of any focus material is legal to non-OECD country of import:
  - Law or court ruling;
  - Letter from the competent authority; or
  - Request documentation from EPA.
EPA’s Assistance

- Open to all recyclers seeking information on exports to foreign countries being legal
- Contact at EPA is Frank McAlister
  - mcalsiter.frank@epa.gov
- Request should include:
  - Name of country/ facility name and address
  - Type of material and form (i.e., whole and shredded circuit boards, used desk top computers, cleaned/processed CRT glass)
  - Manner in which it will be processed (reuse, refurbished, recycled)
Stakeholder Process

- Document was drafted by neutral facilitator
- Versions were discussed by working group and revised by facilitator
- R2 was reviewed by 4 auditors to assure auditability
- R2 was field tested at 6 recyclers
- EPA’s assistance in getting documentation from foreign countries was tested
Points of Contact

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