

CONSULTATION ON THE REVISED ELECTRONICS RECYCLING STANDARD 2010



Electronics Product
Stewardship Canada

In association with:



JULY 1, 2010

1.0 Objective:

Electronics Product Stewardship Canada (EPSC) along with the Provincial end-of-life electronics (EOLE) collection and recycling programs, ACES, ARMA, ESABC, OES and SWEEP, are seeking feedback on the draft revised Electronics Recycling Standard.

2.0 Background:

Developed by EPSC, the Recycling Vendor Qualification Program (RVQP) was designed to provide assurance that electronics recyclers meet a common and minimum acceptable standard of performance prior to use.

The RVQP Program consists of three components:

- Electronics Recycling Standard (ERS)
- Guidance Document
- Audit Process

The ERS, the primary component of the RVQP, defines the minimum requirements for handling EOLE to ensure that it is processed in an environmentally sound manner that protects worker health and safety, and not dumped or illegally exported. The ERS is the auditable criteria that recycler audits and approvals are based upon.

The original release of the RVQP was in 2004, and it was subsequently reviewed and revised, with Version 2.1 being released in 2006, and Version 3 being released in 2009.

3.0 Scope:

The current recycler assessment and verification process has proven to be effective, and has raised the bar for electronics recycling not only in Canada but around the world. However, having been adopted by the Provincial EOLE electronics programs at different stages has resulted in the use of different versions of the ERS across the country. In the interest of continual improvement, EPSC and the Provincial programs are working closely on the latest revision to the ERS which is seen as an opportunity to harmonize the Standard across jurisdictions and further enhance the recycler assessment and verification process.

Although changes are being considered to the overall Recycler Qualification Program (RQP), this consultation is focused on the detailed elements of the ERS only and not the other elements of the RQP.

4.0 Target Audience:

Interested stakeholders targeted for this consultation include:

- Program Approved Recyclers
- Provincial Advisory Committees and other Stakeholder Boards
- Provincial Regulators
- Environment Canada
- National Steering Committee on Electronics Recycling (NSCER)
- Canadian Association of Recycling Industries (CARI)

However, any other interested stakeholders are also invited to submit comments to this consultation.

5.0 Consultation:

Overall, the changes to the ERS are intended to focus on continual improvement of the minimum requirements for recyclers handling EOLE, while providing consistency in the assessment and approval process. The goal is to improve the overall understanding of the ERS requirements for both auditors and recyclers by providing more detailed and better defined ERS requirements within the Standard.

The primary areas of focus for the changes include:

- 5.1 More detail on the requirements of the Environmental Health and Safety Management System
- 5.2 Expanded regulatory requirement to ensure that the organization understands the impacts of the requirements on their operations
- 5.3 More detailed requirements for the risk assessment to ensure that it is a effective process
- 5.4 Better define Environmental, Health and Safety, and Operational control requirements to ensure consistency in their application
- 5.5 New requirements for Data Security
- 5.6 Better definition of the requirements surrounding sampling, audits, inspections and other assessments
- 5.7 Further detail on requirements for transporters and downstream recyclers.

6.0 Comments:

Stakeholders are invited to submit written comments (preferably via e-mail in MS Word or PDF format) on the draft Revised Electronics Recycling Standard by **August 15, 2010 at 5:00 pm EDT**.

Responses must be submitted to:

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The information contained in this document and the draft Electronics Recycling Standard is solely for the purpose of consultations and subject to modification.