Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT ON THE ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGENET OF USED AND END-OF-LIFE COMPUTING EQUIPMENT

Background:

The Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE) was launched by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, which took place in Bali, Indonesia in June 2008. PACE is a multi-stakeholder public-private partnership under the umbrella of the Basel Convention that provides a forum for representatives of personal computer manufacturers, recyclers, international organizations, associations, academia, environmental groups and governments to tackle environmentally sound refurbishment, repair, material recovery, recycling and disposal of used and end-of-life computing equipment. The Partnership is intended to increase the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment, taking into account, amongst other things, social responsibility, the concept of sustainable development, and information-sharing on life cycle thinking.

For the purpose of PACE, computing equipment is defined as: PCs and associated displays, printers and peripherals; personal desktop computers, including their central processing units (CPUs) and all other parts contained in them; personal notebooks and laptop computers, including docking stations, CPUs and all other parts contained in the computers; computer monitors, including cathode ray tube, liquid crystal display and plasma monitors; computer keyboards, mice and cables; computer printers, including dot matrix, inkjet, laser and thermal printers and any computer printer with scanning or facsimile capabilities, or both.

Guidance Document

- The purpose of the overall Guidance Document is to provide information on how to manage used and end-of-life computing equipment from the time they are collected up to and including their refurbishment, material recovery and recycling. It should be considered as a complement to individual project guidelines that were prepared by various project groups, and approved by the PACE Working Group.
- The overall Guidance Document, along with individual project guidelines, should also be used to raise awareness of and to further implement good practice activities associated with different stages of environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment. It contains summaries and recommendations on: ESM criteria recommendations; transboundary movement procedures; testing, refurbishment and repair of used computing equipment; and best practices for material recovery and recycling of end-of-life computing equipment. As such, the overall Guidance Document provides information for training to oversee the successful implementation of recommendations as developed by various project groups established under the PACE. This information can be used by the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centers (BCRCs) to develop training material on different issues that have been covered in this overall Guidance Document, and to implement these recommendations via regional workshops.

- Those who wish to implement environmentally sound practices for used and end-of-life computing equipment, in addition to the overall Guidance Document, should also make use of detailed project guidelines developed by project groups under PACE.

The Guidance Document on the Environmentally Sound Management of Used and End-of-Life Computing Equipment and detailed project guidelines are available from the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (http://www.basel.int/industry/compartnership/documents.html).