

Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment

GUIDELINE ON ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TESTING, REFURBISHMENT, AND REPAIR OF USED 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.

Under PACE one of the project groups, Project Group 1.1 was established with an objective to develop tools (such as guidelines) and activities on environmentally sound testing, refurbishment and repair of used computing equipment, including criteria for testing, certification and labelling.

Guideline

The technical Guideline on Environmentally Sound Testing, Refurbishment and Repair of Used Computing Equipment is divided into five parts:

- Part 1 introduces the background, purpose and use of the guideline document. It also sets out a list of environmentally sound management criteria that are relevant to the refurbishment or repair of used computing equipment.
- Part 2 provides guidance applicable to refurbishment facilities. This part covers measures that refurbishment and repair facilities and facility managers may put in place to better ensure the environmentally sound management (ESM) of used computing equipment, and addresses each of the ESM criteria from the PACE Ad Interim Project Group on ESM Criteria.
- Part 3 provides additional guidance applicable to refurbishment and repair facilities to further support ESM. It includes a flow chart of the refurbishment process, guidance on the sorting of refurbishable and non-refurbishable equipment. It includes guidance on data



security and destruction, and on disassembly. One of the most important elements is guidance on the testing of used equipment prior to reuse to ensure functionality, including batteries. It also includes guidance on labeling/documentation, packaging and storage, and handling of refurbished and repaired equipment.

- Part 4 of the guideline includes guidance for the marketing, donation (Appendix 10), and redeployment of refurbished and repaired computing equipment and components.
- Part 5 provides a series of recommendations relating to: facility measures to support environmentally sound management (ESM), to the refurbishment/ repair process, and to marketing and redeployment of refurbished/ repaired computing equipment.

The guideline on the Environmentally Sound Testing, Refurbishment and Repair of the Used Computing Equipment is available from the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (<http://www.basel.int/industry/partnership/documents.html>).