Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment

REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT (ESM) CRITERIA RECOMMENDATIONS

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, Ad Interim Project Group on ESM criteria, was established with an objective to identify recommendations for ESM criteria for use by other PACE Project Groups in devising guidance material to assist all countries in implementing the principle of environmentally sound management for computing equipment, and for PACE pilot projects in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

In their report on ESM criteria the Ad interim Project Group provided country specific and facility specific recommendations that were considered when developing technical guidelines on environmentally sound testing, refurbishment and repair of used computing equipment; and environmentally sound material recovery and recycling of end-of-life computing equipment.

The ESM criteria were organized into the following “building blocks” for Environmentally Sound Management:

1. **Top Management Commitment to a Systematic Approach:** Demonstrate commitment of top management to integrate a systematic approach to achieve ESM in all aspects of facility operations, which often includes an environmental health and safety management system.

2. **Risk Assessment:** Identify actual and/or potential hazards and risks to public and worker health and safety, and the environment that are associated with activities, products and services.

3. **Risk Prevention and Minimization**: Eliminate where possible and in all cases strive to minimize actual and/or potential hazards and risks to public and worker health and safety, and the environment that are associated with activities, products and services.

4. **Legal Requirements:** Identify, access and strive to fulfil applicable legal requirements, including for example: legislation, statutes and regulations; decrees and directives; permits, licenses and certificates of approval, or other forms of authorization; orders issued by regulatory agencies; and/or judgments of courts or administrative tribunals. Facilities should also take into consideration customary or indigenous law and treaties, conventions and protocols.

5. **Awareness, Competency and Training:** Ensure employees have an appropriate level of awareness, competency and training with respect to the effective management of occupational risks.

6. **Record-keeping and Performance Measurement**: Maintain records, monitor, track, and evaluate facility performance at achieving ESM.

7. **Corrective Action:** Take appropriate action to address significant actual and/or potential risks to public and worker health and safety, and the environment and correct identified deficiencies in achieving ESM.

8. **Transparency and Verification**: Provisions to support transparency and verification throughout each of the above building blocks, subject to appropriate protection for confidential business information, can help facilities to provide public assurances that operations and activities are compatible with ESM. Such provisions may include for example participating in third party audits and inspections.

The report on ESM Criteria Recommendations is available from the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (http://www.basel.int/industry/compartnership/documents.html).