

ENERGY STAR[®] or EPEAT[®]: What's the difference?

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What is ENERGY STAR®?

- ENERGY STAR is a program promoting energy efficiency and protecting the environment through products and practices
- The program was started in 1992, and is run jointly by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy

Purpose of the symbol?

- The ENERGY STAR label was established to:
 - Identify products that reduce greenhouse gases and other pollutants through more efficient use of energy
 - Make it easy for consumers to identify and purchase energy-efficient products



ENERGY STAR items?

- ENERGY STAR qualified products are more than just electronics
- A wide range of household and business items may carry the symbol - over 60 categories
- ENERGY STAR also recognizes energy efficient buildings with the symbol

What is EPEAT®?

- The Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT®) is used by purchasers to evaluate, compare, and select electronics based on their environmental attributes
- EPEAT is based on a standard that provides performance criteria for the design of products in order to reduce their environmental impact
- EPEAT was launched in 2006

What does this mean?

- EPEAT registers and evaluates electronic products in relation to 51 total environmental criteria and 28 optional criteria
- The criteria covers product performance from the cradle to the grave

Examples of Required Criteria:

- Report the amount of mercury in light sources
- Declaration of postconsumer recycled plastic content
- Elimination of paint/coatings not compatible with recycling/reuse
- Meet ENERGY STAR performance requirements
- Provision of product take back service
- Reduction/elimination of intentionally added toxics to packaging

Examples of Optional Criteria:

- Large plastic parts free of PVC
- Molded/glued-in metal eliminated/removable
- Marking of plastics
- Renewable energy accessory available

Three EPEAT tiers



- **Bronze** meets all 23 required criteria.



- **Silver** meets all 23 required and 50% of the optional criteria.



- **Gold** meets all 23 required and 75% of the optional criteria

EPEAT registered items

- Monitors
- Desktop computers
- Laptop computers

What do the Feds have to say?

- **Executive Order 13514, sec. 2 (h)- Oct. 2009**

advance sustainable acquisition to ensure that 95% of new contract actions... for products and services... are energy-efficient (Energy Star or Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) designated), ...environmentally preferable (e.g., Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) certified), non-ozone depleting, contain recycled content, or are non-toxic or less toxic

Why use EPEAT?

- Internationally used standard for environmental attributes of electronics
- Three tiers to select equipment that meets the needs of the consumer
- At the end, it's good for the environment

How do you specify EPEAT in purchases?

- Suggested language:

All desktops, laptops, and computer monitors provided under this contract are required to have achieved Bronze registration or higher under the Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT). EPEAT is a procurement tool designed to help institutional purchasers evaluate, compare, and select desktop computers, laptops, and monitors based upon their environmental attributes as specified in the consensus-based IEEE Standard for the Environmental Assessment of Personal Computer Products (1680).

Additional consideration will be provided for products that have achieved EPEAT Silver or Gold registration.

Bottom Line...

ENERGY STAR = save energy

EPEAT= environmental impact from
cradle to grave

All EPEAT products= ENERGY STAR

But

Not **all** ENERGY STAR = EPEAT

References

- www.federalelectronicschallenge.net
- www.energystar.gov
- www.epeat.net