



ACQUISITION LETTER

This Acquisition Letter is issued under the authority of the Procurement Executives of DOE and NNSA

Subject: **Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Through the Use of the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT)**

References:

Presidential Executive Order 13423 *Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management*
Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) Subpart 23.7 *Contracting for Environmentally Preferable Products and Services*
DOE Order 450.1, Chg 2, *Environmental Protection Program*
DOE Acquisition Guide, Chapter 23, *Greening the Government – Environmental Considerations in Acquisition*
Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool, IEEE *Standard 1680-2006 for Environmental Assessment of Personal Computer Products*.

When is this Acquisition Letter (AL) Effective?

This AL is effective immediately upon issuance.

When Does This AL Expire?

This AL remains in effect until superseded by anticipated FAR coverage or DEAR coverage is canceled.

Who are the Point of Contacts?

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What is the Purpose of this AL?

This AL establishes a preference for purchasing Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool-registered computer products within the Department of Energy while a pending FAR Case 2006-030 is processing which will add the same purchasing preference to the FAR.

What is the Background?

The Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT[®]) is a procurement tool to help public and private sector institutional purchasers identify and compare environmentally preferable or “green” computer products. Computer products registered on EPEAT have less toxic and more recycled materials to better protect human health, are more energy efficient (Energy Star[®] qualified) which reduces emissions of climate changing greenhouse gases, and are also easier to upgrade and recycle.

EPEAT provides a set of performance criteria for the design of computer products, and an opportunity for manufacturers to secure market recognition for efforts to reduce the environmental impact of their products. EPEAT evaluates electronic products according to three tiers of environmental performance – Bronze, Silver and Gold. The complete set of performance criteria includes 23 required criteria and 28 optional criteria. To qualify for acceptance as an EPEAT product, it must conform to all the required criteria (Bronze). Manufacturers may choose among the optional criteria to boost their product’s EPEAT rating (Silver or Gold).

EPEAT was developed through a multi-year stakeholder process that was managed by Zero Waste Alliance, a non-profit partnership of universities, government, business and other organizations working to improve profitability, competitiveness and environmental performance through the development and implementation of practices that lead to the reduction of waste and toxics. The EPEAT web site (www.EPEAT.net) is maintained by a non-profit organization (EPEAT, Inc.) that operates the system for product registration and verification, and provides a one-stop-shop for purchasers to identify computer products registered as environmentally preferable. Since becoming operational in July 2006, seventy (70) models of desktop computers, notebooks, and monitors have been registered on EPEAT.

EPEAT is an International Electronics and Electrical Engineering Standard (IEEE 1680-2006) that specifies the environmental performance criteria and principles by which EPEAT is operated. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has proposed a FAR Business Case to add a new contract clause to the FAR, included in solicitations and contracts to alert Federal and industrial personnel to the IEEE standard.

Purchasing EPEAT-registered computer products is one of the strategies for achieving the Environmentally Preferable Goal as set forth in DOE Order 450.1, Chg 2, *Environmental Protection Program*. Federal agency performance in purchasing environmentally preferable electronics is also part of the OMB Environmental Stewardship Scorecard. Annual progress reporting in response to the OMB Scorecard and DOE Order 450.1 Chg 2 will include purchases of EPEAT-registered desktop computers, laptop computers, and computer monitors by Federal and industrial personnel at DOE sites. Executive Order 13423, *Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management*, Section 2(h), requires Agencies when acquiring electronic products to ensure that 95% of those acquisitions meet EPEAT registration requirements.

What is the Guidance?

When acquiring electronic products including desktop or laptop computers and computer monitors, insert the following clause in solicitations and contracts (This requirement applies to supply or service contracts):

**ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PURCHASING FOR
DESKTOP OR LAPTOP COMPUTERS OR MONITORS
(DOE-AL 2007-08)**

When the contract requires the specification or delivery of desktop or laptop computers or monitors in a DOE facility, the contractor will specify or deliver Electronic Product Environmental Acquisition Tool (EPEAT) registered products conforming to the IEEE 1680-2006 Standard, provided such products are available, are life cycle cost efficient, and meet applicable performance requirements. Information on EPEAT-registered computer products is available at www.epeat.net.