



Heads Up

Issue: 232

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To: ANAB-Accredited and Applicant R2 and e-Stewards[®] CBs and Accreditation Assessors

From: Tina Garner, EHS Program Manager

Re: National Strategy for Electronics Stewardship

CBs accredited for R2 and e-Stewards have been contacted by Karen Pollard of EPA in regard to the mandated study of electronics recycling certification programs (R2 and e-Stewards) included in the National Strategy for Electronics Stewardship dated July 2011. The strategy states:

“In addition, to ensure that the Federal Government’s used electronics are properly managed, EPA, in collaboration with GSA, will investigate with the applicable accreditation board the need to initiate a study of the implementation of the current used electronics certification programs. This review will be repeated as needed, and will evaluate such aspects of the certification programs as: vigorousness of facility and downstream audits; consistency and frequency of audits; and auditor training.”

The strategy is at www.epa.gov/wastes/conservematerials/ecycling/taskforce/docs/strategy.pdf.

EPA and GSA asked that ANAB be involved in this study and ANAB agreed, with the understanding that ANAB must remain in conformance with the confidentiality agreement in place with each ANAB-accredited certification body. EPA is directing and managing the study and ANAB will assist in the execution of the study as needed. This includes providing general (non-specific) accreditation results and trending, facilitating and cooperating with EPA and GSA to conduct witnessed audits when agreed to by the CB and organization, and any other assistance needed and allowed within the confines of the accreditation process.

This is an opportunity to reinforce the benefits of accredited certification and the successful completion of this mandated study will serve all parties well. ANAB and accredited CBs will be able to help EPA and GSA reach an informed conclusion regarding the accredited and certified electronics recycling industry’s suitability to achieve the objectives of the National Strategy.

The National Strategy also states:

“Establish a comprehensive and transparent government-wide policy on used Federal electronics that maximizes reuse, clears data and information stored on used equipment, and ensures that all Federal electronics are processed by *certified recyclers*.” [italics added]

The requirement for the federal government to use only organizations with an accredited certification for R2 and/or e-Stewards will serve the conformity assessment industry well by increasing recognition of accredited certification, furthering the success of these standards.

Please contact me with any questions or comments at tgarner@anab-aclass.org or 417-848-6564.