

The Responsible Recycling (R2) Standard



R2 is Responsible Recycling™

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The Responsible Recycling (R2) Standard

- ▶ International 3rd-party certification standard for electronics recyclers
- ▶ Facility-based certification
- ▶ Requires validation audits every year
 - Full re-certification every 3 years
- ▶ Goals are to establish highest & best environmental & worker safety standards





Background

- ▶ 2006 – 2008: Standard developed
 - Convened by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 - Goal: Ensure highest quality environmental & worker safety standards
 - Open, transparent, consensus-based process
 - Multi-stakeholder
 - Participants included state government, e-recyclers & refurbishers, OEMs, & environmental NGOs
- ▶ 2008 – 2009: Certification Bodies became ANAB accredited
- ▶ 2010 January: First recyclers certified
- ▶ 2010 September: R2 Solutions (R2S) formed as NGO housing entity & standard development organization for R2 Standard



Key Issues in Standard Development Process

- ▶ Identifying “Focus Materials”
- ▶ Environmental health & safety management systems
- ▶ Data security
- ▶ Export to non-OECD countries
- ▶ Prison labor



Current Status

- ▶ 240 certified facilities in 120 companies
 - >100 companies in process of certification
- ▶ 6 ANAB accredited R2 Certification Bodies (CBs)
- ▶ Guidance released June 2012
- ▶ Standard revision in process



Incentives for Becoming Certified

Self-motivated

- ▶ Desire to meet highest & best standards

Economic

- ▶ Competitive advantage
- ▶ Customers asking – e.g. OEMs, state agencies, large corporations



Legal

- ▶ Federal agencies required to use certified e-waste recyclers
- ▶ State laws



International Face of Standard

- ▶ Authorized CBs offer services in all parts of globe
- ▶ Certified facilities in U.S, Canada, Mexico, United Kingdom, India, Singapore, Malaysia, & China
- ▶ Dozens more in process, including facilities in Australia, Germany, Netherlands, South Africa, & Sweden
- ▶ R2 revision ensuring that Standard is globally applicable



Content of the R2 Standard

- ▶ Environmental, health, & safety management system
- ▶ Hierarchy of responsible management strategies
- ▶ Legal requirements
- ▶ On-site environment, health, & safety
- ▶ Focus materials
- ▶ Reusable equipment & components
- ▶ Tracking throughput
- ▶ Data destruction
- ▶ Storage
- ▶ Facility security
- ▶ Insurance, closure plan, & financial responsibility
- ▶ Transport
- ▶ Recordkeeping



R2S Quality Assurance Program

- ▶ Guidance document
- ▶ Policy for addressing nonconformance(s)
- ▶ Planning changes to ANAB accreditation rule
 - Requiring R2S–authorized training for CBs & auditors
 - Establishing minimum number of audit days
- ▶ Considering plan for random audits (2013)
- ▶ Technical Advisory Committee



Technical Advisory Committee

- ▶ Balanced stakeholder group that works through transparent process to support & maintain Standard
 - Guidance document
 - Standard revision
 - Expert guidance





What's Next

- ▶ R2S revising Standard through Technical Advisory Committee
 - Expect draft revised Standard to be released 4th quarter 2012 for public comment
 - Key issues relate to type of EHMS, exporting, & reuse
 - R2:2013 finalized mid-2013
- ▶ Open, transparent, balanced process consistent with requirements of U.S. federal government & ANSI
- ▶ Training program for CBs, auditors, recyclers



Thank you

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- ▶ R2 Standard
<http://www.r2solutions.org/r2practices/r2-standard/>
- ▶ Guidance Document
http://www.r2solutions.org/clientuploads/R2_2008%20Standard%20Guidance%20%20v.1.0%206-16-12.pdf

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