



State Electronics Challenge Third Party Certification of Electronics Recyclers

Two nationally recognized third-party certification programs for electronics recyclers - [Responsible Recycling Practices \(R2\)](#) and [e-Stewards®](#) - have answered the question of how to define environmentally sound management of electronic equipment. The electronics recycling industry is responding to the availability of national certification and many recyclers are now certified.

Using a recycler certified to either standard meets the Challenge requirement for environmentally sound management of electronic equipment. While there are two standards, there are three programs to which recyclers are becoming certified:

- **e-Stewards:** The e-Stewards certification program for electronics recyclers is a project of Basel Action Network (BAN). The program is designed to provide market incentives that drive the certification of the entire recycling chain that is managing the toxic materials.

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*Note that only recyclers indicated by **GREEN** markers are certified.*

- **R2:** Recognizing the need for a comprehensive certification program that captured the operational and environmental concerns of the industry, the EPA convened a multi-stakeholder process to develop the “*Responsible Recycling practices for Use in Accredited Certifications Programs*” (R2). The goal was to create a voluntary, market-based mechanism for ensuring best practices, which would also provide essential information/assurances to prospective customers. The R2 standard is hosted by Responsible Recycling Solutions.

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- **R2/RIOS:** R2/RIOS is a third-party certification program offered through the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI). It combines the R2 standard requirements and the Recycling Industry Operating Standard (RIOS)® standard, which provides a framework for a comprehensive, integrated management system including key operational and continual improvement elements for quality, environmental and health and safety (QEH&S) performance..

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What is Third-Party Certification?

Third-party certification is an assessment carried out to ensure compliance with a publicly available technical specification, such as R2 or e-Stewards. Importantly, the assessment is carried out by an independent, third party organization that is qualified and licensed to issue certification when the assessment is successfully completed. The entities that conduct the assessment are known as registrars.