



ACER Ranking = 2.3/10

Despite Acer's adoption of the precautionary principle, the company has yet to provide timelines for the elimination of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and brominated flame retardants (BFRs). The company scores no points on product take back and recycling.

Ranking criteria explained

The ranking criteria reflect the demands of the Toxic Tech campaign to the electronics companies. Our two demands are that companies should:

- clean up their products by eliminating hazardous substances;
- takeback and recycle their products responsibly once they become obsolete.

The two issues are connected. The use of harmful chemicals in electronics prevents their safe recycling when the products are discarded. Companies scored marks out of 30 this has then been calculated to a mark out of 10 for simplicity.

ACER Overall Score

	BAD	PARTIALLY BAD	PARTIALLY GOOD	GOOD
Precautionary Principle				
Chemicals Management				
Timeline for PVC phaseout				
Timeline for BFR phaseout				
PVC-free and/or BFR-free models				
Individual producer responsibility				
Voluntary takeback				
Information to individual customers				
Amounts recycled				

ACER Detailed Scoring

Chemical Score	BAD	PARTIALLY BAD	PARTIALLY GOOD	GOOD
Precautionary Principle				Acer scores a 'yes' on its statement on the precautionary principle that recognises the need for preventive action, even if scientific evidence is not conclusive. Precautionary principle
Chemicals Management			Acer loses a point because its Hazardous Substance List fails to provide a system for identifying future harmful chemicals for elimination. 2006 Environmental Objectives Acer's Hazardous Substance List	
Timeline for PVC phaseout		Acer has committed to providing a substitution plan for eliminating PVC by the third quarter of 2006. Timeline		
Timeline for BFR phaseout		Acer has committed to providing a substitution plan for eliminating all BFRs by the third quarter of 2006. Timeline		
PVC-free and/or BFR-free models	No PVC-free or BFR-free models on the market Product environmental management			

EPR/recycling score	BAD	PARTIALLY BAD	PARTIALLY GOOD	GOOD
Support for Individual Producer Responsibility	No reference to individual producer responsibility			
Provides voluntary takeback where no EPR laws exist	Acer only provides takeback services where required to do so by national EPR laws. Easy Disassembly and Product Recycling			
Provides info for individual customers on takeback in all countries where products are sold	No information to individual customers on what to do with their discarded Acer products.			
Reports on amount of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) collected and recycled	No information on the amounts of e-waste collected and recycled.			

Toxic chemicals criteria

Greenpeace wants to see electronics companies clean up their act.

Substituting harmful chemicals in the production of electronics will prevent worker exposure to these substances and contamination of communities that neighbour production facilities. Eliminating harmful substances will also prevent leaching/off-gassing of chemicals like brominated flame retardants (BFR) during use, and enable electronic scrap to be safely recycled. The presence of toxic substances in electronics perpetuates the toxic cycle – during reprocessing of electronic waste and by using contaminated secondary materials to make new products.

Until the use of toxic substances is eliminated, it is impossible to secure 'safe' recycling. For this reason, the points awarded to corporate practice on chemicals (five criteria, double points for PVC – and BFR-free models) are weighted more heavily than criteria on recycling, because until the use of harmful substances is eliminated in products, it is impossible to secure 'safe', toxic-free recycling.

The electronics scorecard ranks companies on:

Chemicals policy and practice (5 criteria)

1. A chemicals policy based on the Precautionary Principle
2. Chemicals Management: supply chain management of chemicals via e.g. banned/restricted substance lists, policy to identify problematic substances for future elimination/substitution
3. Timeline for phasing out all use of vinyl plastic (PVC)
4. Timeline for phasing out all use of brominated flame retardants (not just those banned by EU's RoHS Directive)
5. PVC- and BFR-free models of electronic products on the market.

Policy and practice on Producer Responsibility for taking back their discarded products and recycling (4 criteria)

1. Support for individual (financial) producer responsibility – that producers finance the end-of-life management of their products, by taking back and reusing/recycling their own-brand discarded products.
2. Provides voluntary takeback and recycling in every country where it sells its products, even in the absence of national laws requiring Producer Responsibility for electronic waste.
3. Provides clear information for individual customers on takeback and recycling services in all countries where there are sales of its products.
4. Reports on amount of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) collected and recycled.

Ranking regrading: Companies have the opportunity to move towards a greener ranking as the guide will be updated every quarter. However penalty points will be deducted from overall scores if Greenpeace finds a company lying, practising double standards or other corporate misconduct.

Disclaimer: Greenpeace's 'Guide to Greener Electronics' aims to clean up the electronics sector and get manufacturers to take responsibility for the full life cycle of their products, including the electronic waste that their products generate. The guide does not rank companies on labour standards, energy use or any other issues, but recognises that these are important in the production and use of electronics products.

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