

April 2, 2019

## SERI releases proposed changes to the R2 Standard and invites public comment

*Hastings, Minnesota, April 2, 2019* – A proposed draft for a revised version of the R2 Standard has been released by Sustainable Electronics Recycling International (SERI) for public comment. The R2 Standard is the most globally recognized electronics reuse-recycling standard with more than 850 R2 certified facilities operating in 34 countries. The proposed changes in R2v3, the next evolution of the R2 Standard, reflect a decade of experience gained from auditing and implementing the Standard, and the overwhelming adoption of R2 across diverse industry sectors such as returns, trade-in programs, and the mobile industry. Revisions reflect, among many things, an increased emphasis on reuse and protecting data with more prescriptive data security requirements and improved clarity and quality in the test and repair of electronics.

Proposed changes to the R2 Standard reflect comments from the public, lessons learned by SERI, and recommendations from the R2 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), a diverse group representing small, mid, and large-scale recyclers and refurbishers; auditors and certifying bodies; electronics manufacturers and retailers; users/customers of R2 certified facilities; environmental protection agencies and environmental advocates; and other industry experts. The TAC was formed in 2015 after SERI made a public call for volunteers to serve on the committee. From the applications received, SERI selected members that reflected the diversity and balance of stakeholders in the electronics reuse-recycling industry so that many voices were heard during the review and revision process. TAC members have each volunteered over 200 hours over the last 3 years to this process.

The next phase in the revision process is the public comment period. SERI invites the public to download R2v3 Draft from the SERI website and submit any comments or suggestions for improvement within the 45-day public comment period using the online form on the R2v3 page of the SERI website. All comments will be considered by the TAC. Multiple public comment periods may be initiated as the TAC makes additional changes to the R2v3 draft. The final version of the R2v3 Standard is expected to be completed and approved in late 2019.

### **An overview of the proposed R2v3**

The original intent of the R2 Standard remains unchanged in R2v3: *to protect data, the environment, and the health and safety of workers and communities from the consequences of unsafe (and often illegal) management of used and end-of-life electronics*. Many of the requirements in R2v3 are familiar and largely unchanged – just reorganized. In cases where requirements were unclear or ambiguous, clarifying language was added for better understanding of expectations, and to achieve more consistent implementation, audits and outcomes.

#### **Key Changes:**

- **Clarifies requirements and expectations**, with prescription where necessary, to improve understanding and achieve more consistent outcomes.
- **Requirements in key areas will be strengthened** based on a decade of experience and lessons learned – especially in the areas of data protection; managing the flow of material through the downstream; and environmental, health and safety. Changes are intended to reduce risk while still allowing for innovation in process and methods to achieve consistent results.
- **Reorganization of the Standard will include two sections-- “Core Requirements”** that will apply to *ALL* R2 Certified Facilities; and specialized **“Process Requirements”** that will apply only to facilities that perform specific processes. This modular approach will better adapt to the specialization and diversity of facility types and changing business models within the industry.

# SERI – Home of the Standard

## **The standard development process for R2**

The R2v3 Standard is the only electronics reuse-recycling standard developed by an ANSI accredited organization. SERI's development process for the R2 Standard is audited by ANSI to ensure openness, balance, consensus and due process, and is defined in the [SERI Manual of Policies and Procedures for R2 Standard Development](#).

When the R2 Standard was first introduced in 2008, it was an important turning point for improving how electronics were reused and recycled. With the final release of R2v3 in late 2019, the R2 Standard will once again raise the industry bar for safe and sustainable electronics reuse and recycling.

## **About SERI** (*Sustainable Electronics Recycling International*)

*SERI is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization that works to create a world where electronic products are reused and recycled in a way that promotes resource preservation; the well-being of the natural environment; and the health and safety of workers and communities.*

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