



Green Electronics Council

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OUTCOMES REPORT

EPEAT VERIFICATION ROUND TV-2017-01

1. Overview of Verification Round

This report provides detailed results of Verification Round TV-2017-01. Six total investigations were completed during this round on criteria which had not been previously verified. Each criterion was investigated at Level 1. Products were selected from a list of all active products on the registry, and all manufacturers and geographies were eligible for inclusion. The criteria investigated were:

- 4.2.1.2: Optional- Minimum 5% to 10% of postconsumer recycled plastic
- 4.3.4.1: Required- Minimum reusable/recyclable rate based on EU WEEE directive
- 4.4.1.1: Required- Upgradable firmware
- 4.5.2.2: Optional- Low standby power
- 4.7.2.1: Required- Public disclosure of key environmental aspects
- 4.8.3.1: Required- Recovered content in select fiber-based packaging materials

2. Summary of Outcomes

Highlights from this Verification Round:

- 6 investigations completed
- 3 decisions of Conformance
- 3 decisions of Non-Conformance

Figure 1. Overall Conformance Status for TV-2017-01 (as a percentage of total investigations)

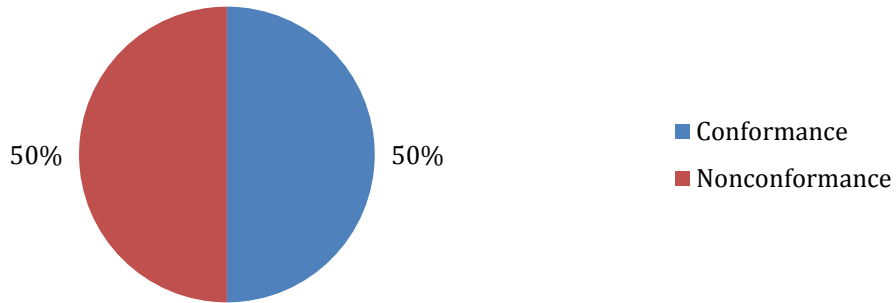


Figure 2. Reasons for Nonconformances

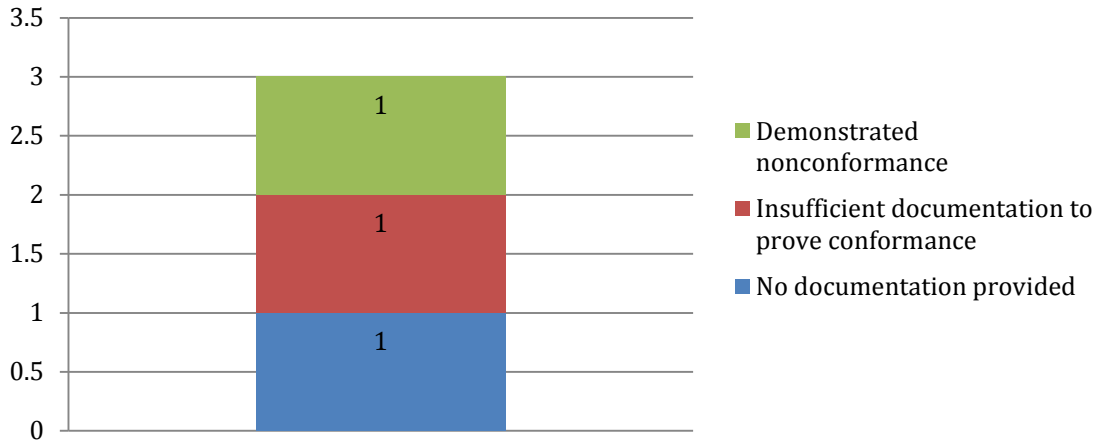
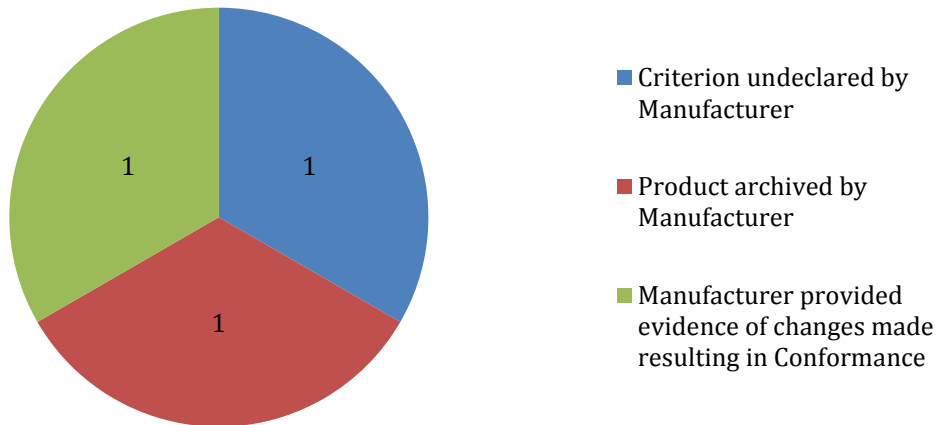


Figure 3. Corrective Actions Taken



3. Key Lessons

Criterion 4.7.2.1- Public disclosure of key environmental aspects

Criterion 4.7.2.1 requires public disclosure related to GHG emissions, water, waste and toxics. The manufacturer's public disclosure must address each requirement listed in the criterion and be supported by evidence demonstrating performance against goals, targets and objectives. This information need not be found in the same place but must be publically available.

4. General Message to Manufacturers

Products "Active" on the EPEAT Registry: All Active products on the EPEAT Registry are subject to Verification. When products reach their end of life, Manufacturers should remove the products from the EPEAT Registry. If a product which is Active on the EPEAT Registry has reached end of life and a Manufacturer cannot obtain required evidence for verification due to the age of the product, it would still be considered a Non-Conformance.

Understanding documentation requirements for Verification Rounds:

EPEAT has pre-recorded training modules for every criterion in the 1680.3 standard. To gain access to these modules, log in to EPEAT.net and go to the "My Account" page. From here click on "Key Documents". There you will find a link to "EPEAT Criteria Training Videos". These modules are designed to de-mystify the standard's requirements, and to illustrate the types of information needed during a Verification Round. Manufacturers are encouraged to access these modules.

Initial response to Auditors:

When contacted regarding participation in a Verification Round, Manufacturers should respond to the Auditor as soon as possible to let them know they are communicating with the correct person or to inform them of the correct contact. This also helps the Auditor know that the e-mail address is valid.

Conformance of products that may share similar traits and/or supply chains:

If a Non-Conformance is found for a particular criterion and product, Manufacturers should be prepared to determine if other products on the EPEAT Registry are similarly impacted due to use of similar materials and/or supply chains, and develop corrective action plans to address the future conformance of these other products.

5. Looking Forward

Plans for Future Verification Activities:

There is one verification round planned for Televisions in 2018.

Conformity Packets:

This and all future Verification Rounds have and will be conducted according to the guidance provided in the Conformity Packets posted on www.epeat.net.

6. Investigations Table

TABLE 1: Specific Non-Conformance Findings and Corrective Action Taken

Participating Manufacturer	Product	Country	Product Type	Criterion	Required or Optional	Criterion Description	NC Finding Description	Corrective Action Taken
Samsung Electronics	UN40H5203AF	United States	TV	4.2.1.2	Optional	Minimum 5% to 10% of postconsumer recycled plastic	No documentation provided	Criterion undeclared by Manufacturer
Samsung Electronics	HG55NE890UF	United States	TV	4.3.4.1	Required	Minimum reusable/recyclable rate based on EU WEEE directive	Insufficient documentation to prove conformance	Product archived by Manufacturer
LG Electronics Inc.	43LX560H	United States	TV	4.7.2.1	Required	Public disclosure of key environmental aspects	Demonstrated non-conformance	Manufacturer provided evidence of changes made resulting in conformance

7. Background

To assure the credibility of the EPEAT Registry, verification of the claims by Participating Manufacturers are rigorous, independent and transparent. Verification is conducted according to policies and procedures described in documents provided on www.epeat.net. Manufacturers are given no forewarning that their products will be verified, and verification is performed based on the declarations as they are in the Registry at the time the Verification Round begins.

Investigations are performed by expert technical contractors called Auditors working for a Conformity Assurance Body approved by the Green Electronics Council (GEC). Auditors are free of conflicts of interest, and their recommended decisions are reviewed and finalized by a four-person panel of independent technical experts (called the Conformity Decision Panel) who are also contractors free of conflicts of interest. Decisions of conformity by the Conformity Decision Panel are made blind to the identity of the products and companies they are judging, based only on evidence collected and analyzed by Auditors. A serious consequence of receiving a Non-Conformance is that it is published publicly in an Outcomes Report, for purchasers, competitors, and others to see.

- In a Level 0 investigation, an Auditor assesses Conformance to a criterion by examining publicly available information only – no products are obtained for inspection or testing, and the Manufacturer is not asked to submit documentation. If the publicly available information is inconclusive (i.e. was not available, could not be found from public sources, or did not provide enough details to determine conformance), the Auditor may be instructed to proceed with a Level 1 investigation.
- In a Level 1 investigation, an Auditor assess Conformance to a criterion by examining information submitted by a Manufacturer. The Manufacturer is required to provide detailed and accurate information in a timely manner.
- In Level 2 investigations, the Conformity Assurance Body obtains a product without the Manufacturer's knowledge or involvement, and has the product disassembled and inspected to assess conformance with one or more criteria.
- In Level 3 investigations, the Conformity Assurance Body obtains a product without the Manufacturer's knowledge or involvement, and has the product analytically tested to assess conformance with one or more criteria.

Manufacturers must correct Non-Conformances, either by bringing the product into Conformance, by un-declaring the criterion until Conformance is achieved, or by removing the product from the Registry. The Green Electronics Council also requires that Manufacturers examine other registered products to determine if their declarations should be corrected as well. If a Manufacturer corrects the Non-Conformance by un-declaring the criterion and the criterion is an optional criterion, they lose that point, and possibly the product drops a tier. If it is a required criterion, they must archive the product. If it is a required corporate criterion, they must archive all of their registered products.