1. Overview of Verification Round

PC-2018-04 investigated randomly chosen criteria from IEEE 1680.1: 2009 and randomly chosen products. Sixty-three Level 1 investigations were planned for this round. In Level 1 investigations, an Auditor assesses Conformance to a criterion by examining information submitted by a Manufacturer. The Manufacturer is required to provide detailed and accurate information in a 60-day period.

The products and criteria were selected as follows:

- All products that active on the Registry at the time of product selection were eligible for inclusion and were chosen through a random selection process.
- Criteria were chosen randomly for each selected product.
- The following criteria were removed from the pool of eligible criteria for this round due to the fact that they will no longer be relevant for EPEAT registration for companies intending to register products under IEEE 1680.1 2018: 4.1.3.1, 4.1.3.2, 4.1.4.1, 4.1.5.1, 4.1.6.2, 4.2.3.1, 4.3.1.9, 4.4.1.1, 4.4.2.1, 4.4.2.2, 4.5.1.2, 4.5.2.1, 4.5.2.2, 4.6.1.2, 4.7.3.1, 4.7.3.2, 4.8.3.1, 4.8.4.1, 4.8.5.1.
- All geographies and Manufacturers were eligible for inclusion.
- Exception was as follows: If a criterion was randomly selected for a product and that product had been investigated against that criterion in the last six months, a new criterion was randomly selected for the product.

2. No Manufacturer was subject to more than 7 investigations during this Round.

Summary of Outcomes

Highlights from this Verification Round:

- 63 total investigations assigned
- 52 decisions of Conformance
- 10 decisions of Non-Conformance
- 1 investigation Cancelled
3. **Key Lessons**

Manufacturers should be sure that their products meet all the Verification Requirements of each criterion prior to making a declaration on the EPEAT Registry.

4. **General Message to Manufacturers**

*Understanding documentation requirements for Verification Rounds:*

You can find more guidance and examples of conformance documents in the Conformity Sample Packets located in “Key Documents” under My Account. Go to epeat.net to log in.

*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:**

Information about 2019 Verification Activities can be found [here](#).
# Investigations Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participating Manufacturer</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Product Type</th>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Required or Optional</th>
<th>Criterion Description</th>
<th>NC Finding Description</th>
<th>Corrective Action Taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ace Computers</td>
<td>Mustang W670SR</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Notebooks</td>
<td>4.1.1.1</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Compliance with provisions of European Union RoHS Directive</td>
<td>Insufficient documentation to prove conformance</td>
<td>Product archived by Manufacturer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIARA-TECH</td>
<td>CIARA-VIBE-CTU-TAB11</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Tablets/Slates</td>
<td>4.1.2.1</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>Elimination of intentionally added cadmium</td>
<td>No documentation provided</td>
<td>Other: The product has already been archived prior to this finding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporativo Lanix, S.A. de C.V</td>
<td>CORP 4250E</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>Desktops</td>
<td>4.3.1.1</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Identification of materials with special handling needs</td>
<td>Demonstrated non-conformance</td>
<td>Other: The product has already been archived prior to this finding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>digital computer</td>
<td>All products</td>
<td>All countries</td>
<td>All product types</td>
<td>4.6.2.1</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Provision of a rechargeable battery take-back service</td>
<td>No documentation provided</td>
<td>Other: The Manufacturer is inactive in the EPEAT Registry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>digital computer</td>
<td>Ascent Desktop - D-XXXX</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Desktops</td>
<td>4.3.1.1</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Identification of materials with special handling needs</td>
<td>No documentation provided</td>
<td>Other: The Manufacturer is inactive in the EPEAT Registry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durabook Americas Inc.</td>
<td>SA14</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Notebooks</td>
<td>4.3.1.1</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Identification of materials with special handling needs</td>
<td>Demonstrated non-conformance</td>
<td>Other: All the Manufacturer’s products were archived already due to a non-conformance in the previous round PC-2018-03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH ALPLAST</td>
<td>All products</td>
<td>All countries</td>
<td>All product types</td>
<td>4.6.1.1</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Provision of product take-back service</td>
<td>No documentation provided</td>
<td>Other: All the Manufacturer’s products were archived already due to a non-conformance in the previous round PC-2018-03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TH ALPLAST</td>
<td>G29</td>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>Workstations</td>
<td>4.8.3.2</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>Minimum postconsumer content guidelines</td>
<td>No documentation provided</td>
<td>Other: All the Manufacturer’s products were archived already due to a non-conformance in the previous round PC-2018-03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toshiba</td>
<td>TECRA A50-E PT593A</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Notebooks</td>
<td>4.8.1.1</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Reduction/elimination of intentionally added toxics in packaging</td>
<td>Insufficient documentation to prove conformance</td>
<td>Product archived by Manufacturer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participating Manufacturer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toshiba</td>
<td>Tecra Z50-C P557HA</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>Notebooks</td>
<td>4.3.1.2</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Elimination of paints or coatings that are not compatible with recycling or reuse</td>
<td>Insufficient documentation to prove conformance</td>
<td>If NC due to insufficient evidence, Manufacturer provided additional evidence to demonstrate conformance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 the Conformity Assurance staff of GEC. Decisions of conformity 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 Major 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.