Green Electronics Council

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OUTCOMES REPORT
EPEAT VERIFICATION ROUND TV-2015-01

1. Overview of Verification Round

Verification Round TV-2015-01 for the IEEE 1680.3™ Standard for the Environment Assessment of Televisions focused on Level 0 and Level 1 investigations. Be sure to read the key lessons from this Verification Round in section 3 below. The Verification Round targeted three criteria: 4.1.9.1, 4.6.1.2, and 4.6.2.1 plus two randomly chosen criteria.

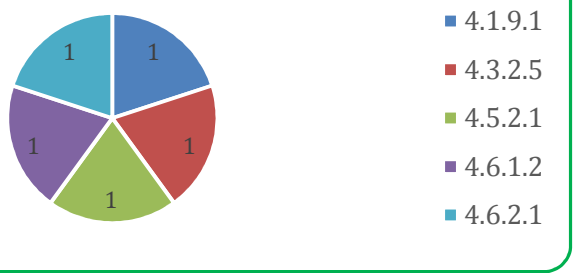
The specific criteria investigated were as follows:

- 4.1.9.1 Optional – Inventory of intentionally added chemicals residing in the product
- 4.6.1.2 Optional – Provision of take-back service for broader scope of products
- 4.6.2.1 Required – End-of-life processing requirements
- Randomly chosen criteria

Note: Clarifications have been issued for 4.6.1.2, 4.6.2.1 and 4.6.2.2. Originally, this Verification Round was intended to also include 4.6.2.2. However, since no Television Manufacturers are currently claiming criterion 4.6.2.2, that criterion was not included in the Verification Round.

This Round included 5 Level 0 and 1 investigations. A Level 0 investigation involves the Auditor establishing Conformance based on publicly available information, as applicable. A Level 1 investigation involves a review of EPEAT Participating Manufacturer (Manufacturer) submissions. All active Conformity Assurance Bodies and Manufacturers were considered for selection in this Round. If a Manufacturer had already received a decision of Conformance during the past year for one of the criteria in a different Verification Round, they were not be verified again for the same criteria.

FIGURE 1: Criteria Investigated in TV-2015-01



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In total, 5 Level 0 and Level 1 investigations were completed. For the criteria listed, products were chosen randomly from all Manufacturers declaring to each criterion. After those selections were made, criteria and products for the remaining investigations were chosen at random.

2. Summary of Outcomes

Highlights from this Verification Round are:

- 5 investigations completed
- 4 decisions of Conformance
- 1 decision of Non-Conformance

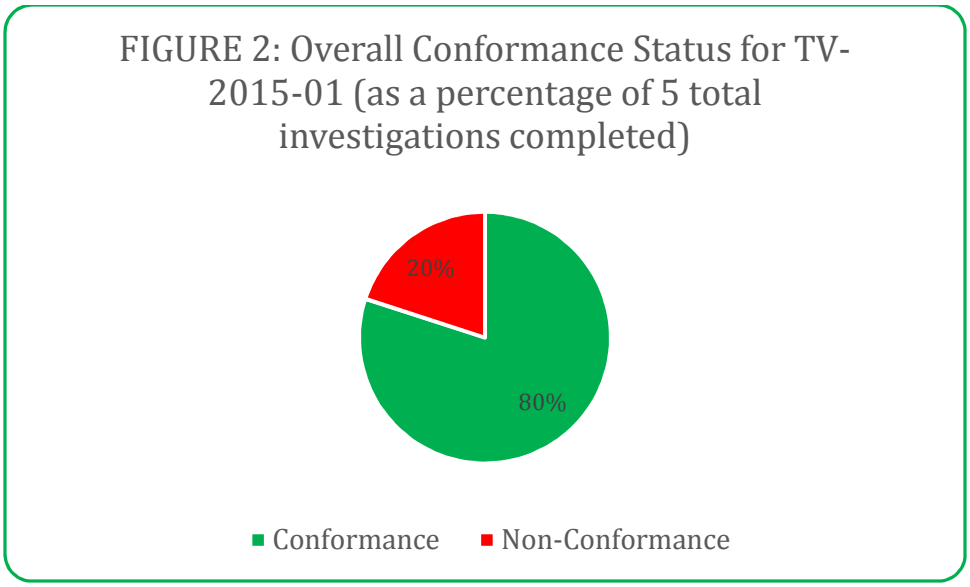

TABLE 1: Summary of Non-Conformance Findings

Criterion	Description		Completed Investigations	Non-Conformances	Non-Conformance Rate
4.1.9.1	Optional	Inventory of intentionally added chemicals residing in the product	1	1	100%
4.3.2.5	Required	Restriction on materials not compatible with reuse and recycling	1	0	0%
4.5.2.1	Optional	Additional On Mode performance exceeding ENERGY STAR	1	0	0%

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TABLE 1: Summary of Non-Conformance Findings					
Criterion	Description		Completed Investigations	Non-Conformances	Non-Conformance Rate
4.6.1.2	Optional	Provision of take-back service for broader scope of products	1	0	0%
4.6.2.1	Required	End-of-life processing requirements	1	0	0%

In Section 6, Table 2 presents further details on the Non-Conformance. Following the investigation phase, corrective action was taken to resolve the identified Non-Conformance and restore the accuracy of the EPEAT Registry.

- One Non-Conforming criterion was un-declared for investigated product. Manufacturer also identified several other products affected by this Non-Conformance and un-declared criteria for those products as well.

3. Key Lessons

Specific requirements for Criterion 4.1.9.1 - Inventory of intentionally added chemicals residing in the product:

This optional criterion requires documentation of a Conformance Assurance System (CAS). Per the standard, all four phases of the CAS must be proven. Additionally, the Manufacturer must prove that they have a process for tracking the presence of the latest list of Joint Industry Guide 101 or IEC 62474 declarable substances, and are tracking the amount of each declarable substance in order to know if the threshold limits have been reached.

Provision of information during Verification Rounds:

The IEEE 1680 standard and the EPEAT Manufacturer agreement require that Manufacturers provide the information identified in Verification Requirements to prove the accuracy of their declarations within 30 days of EPEAT's request. Manufacturers are reminded that failure to provide this information is inconsistent with the agreement and may result in termination of the Manufacturer from EPEAT.

4. General Message to Manufacturers

Understanding documentation requirements for Verification Rounds:

EPEAT's Online Learning Center has pre-recorded training modules for every criterion in the 1680.3 standard. 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 on EPEAT's Online Learning Center. If you do not yet have access to the Learning Center, please contact Andrea Desimone.

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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 are two Verification Rounds planned for 2016 for 1680.3 (Televisions). These Rounds may include Level 0, Level 1, Level 2 and/or Level 3 investigations.

Conformity Assessment Protocols:

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

6. Investigations Table

TABLE 2: Specific Non-Conformance Finding and Corrective Action Taken

Country	Product Type	Criterion	Required or Optional	Criterion Description	NC Finding Description	Corrective Action Taken
United States	TV	4.1.9.1	Optional	Inventory of intentionally added chemicals residing in the product	The manufacturer failed to prove conformance with the verification requirements.	Manufacturer undeclared criterion.

7. Background

To assure the credibility of the EPEAT Registry, verification of the claims by Participating Manufacturers is 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.

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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 five-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 assesses 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.