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# EPEAT® Subscriber Update

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## EPEAT 2010 Roundup

The past year has been filled with important steps forward:

- We've seen adoption of broadbased EPEAT specifications by two additional national governments - in France and Australia - and growing interest in the consumer arena.
- We've launched EPEAT Certificate training - with programs successfully completed in Portland, London and Taipei.
- We've formed a collaborative with an international group of testing and certification organizations to finalize the framework for Product Registration Entities.
- We've upgraded the Subscriber fee recording software to enable better communication and tracking of fee status in real time.
- We've undertaken a record six Verification Rounds to maintain registry quality.

We thank you all for your participation in (and patience with) these changes, and look forward to a very exciting and prosperous new year for us all in 2011.

**Sarah O'Brien**

EPEAT Outreach and Communications

## EPEAT Training Expands

Developing full-fledged EPEAT training was a top priority this year. By offering a growing series of EPEAT Certificate Training opportunities worldwide, we are building capacity among consultants, technical investigators and manufacturers who wish to participate.

The first training was held in EPEAT's offices in Portland, OR last spring. In November, full training sessions were offered in London and Taipei, Taiwan, with close to 30 students from Brazil, Canada, China, Poland, France, Taiwan and the UK attending these international sessions of the rigorous two day course. [More](#)

## PRE Collaborative Launched

As envisioned in the IEEE 1680 standard, EPEAT is developing the capacity for multiple organizations to offer registration/verification services to manufacturers wishing to

qualify products in EPEAT. (These organizations are known in IEEE 1680 as "Product Registration Entities" or "PREs")

Throughout 2010, EPEAT staff worked with Subscribers, standards and accreditation organizations and interested PRE candidates to develop a system of quality control and accreditation for such organizations, to ensure consistent quality of product declarations and verifications across all PREs. In November we took the next step - signing a Memorandum of Agreement with five organizations to engage with them to finalize the collaborative system and enable them to begin working with manufacturers as PREs. [More](#)

Two very important points for Subscribers:

1) Subscribers do not need to make any immediate decisions about changing their registering agent - this is just a heads up that more choice will become available in 2011.

2) The participation of some precertification organizations in this collaborative effort does not mean that EPEAT is changing from a declaration and verification system to one that requires precertification - EPEAT is built on the IEEE model of declaration and verification and will maintain the system's commitment to that approach.



## Verification Overview

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During 2010 six Verification Rounds were started and five are expected to be completed. Here are the statistics from the year so far:

- Number of different criteria investigated = 22
- Number of companies verified = 52
- Number of investigations = 172
- Number of Conformances = 78 through Round 2010-04
- Number of Non-Conformances = 42 through Round 2010-04
- Number of Withdrawals = 1

The high rate of nonconformance arises largely from a single Round - Verification Round 2010-03 - which investigated Subscribers' due diligence regarding product takeback and recycling in multiple countries. 49 Subscribers were involved in the round, which looked at Required Criterion 4.6.1.1. Twenty nine Subscribers were found to be in Conformance and twenty Subscribers were found to be Non-Conformant.\*

The nonconformances were primarily related to Subscribers' lack of detailed information on subcontractors' practices (especially in areas governed by WEEE collective schemes), rather than actual performance failures. However this was obviously an unacceptably high failure rate. Due to the high number of Non-Conformances found, web-based training sessions were held to help Non-Conformant Subscribers more fully understand the detailed

verification requirements for the criterion, and some Subscribers have been placed back on Desk Review.

[More details on individual 2010 rounds](#)

Questions regarding Verification? Please contact EPEAT Registry Services Manager, [Erin Gately](#).

\*Many of these nonconformances have been rectified through additional due diligence by Subscribers, with product declarations now in conformance. [More detail](#)

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