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DRAFT VERIFICATION PLAN – ROUND THREE November 2008 – January 2009

Product Verification Committee

I. PURPOSE AND CONTENTS OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Plan describes the verification process to be used in the third EPEAT Verification Round, including the criteria that will be verified, the number of products to be verified for each criterion, and the method of verification for each.

The products and subscribers to be verified are not specifically identified. The intention is for the PVC to be blind to the specific product and subscriber about which they are making decisions. This information will be known by the staff and the Qualified Verifier, but will not be provided to the PVC until after completion of the initial conformance/non-conformance findings of the Round. However, when subscribers present specific information to the PVC regarding a decision, the subscriber and product will be revealed to the PVC in order to resolve any issues.

II. PRODUCT VERIFICATION COMMITTEE

Following are the members of the PVC:

Patty Dillon, Dillon Environmental Associates

Jack Geibig, Director, Center for Clean Products, University of Tennessee

Jim Arnold, Retired from Motorola Labs

III. QUALIFIED VERIFIERS

Following are the members of the Qualified Verifier (QV) team:

Pamela Brody-Heine
EcoStewardship Strategies

Ming-Shen Lai, President
LMS Consulting Ltd.

Stephen Greene, Principal
Howland Green Consulting
Formerly Product Stewardship Manager,
Polaroid Corporation

IV. CHARACTERISTICS OF ROUND THREE

Rounds One and Two consisted of 79 and 61 product investigations, respectively. Because of the large number of investigations, and ensuing complexities and delays in getting the required information from subscribers, these rounds took inordinately long. This round will enhance and expedite the verification process by conducting a smaller number of investigations. Future rounds will be similarly conducted with fewer investigations but at greater frequency.

Since Round Two was completed, there has been substantial growth in the number of subscribers on the EPEAT Registry, now representing 31 companies. Over 1/3rd of the current subscribers are fairly new to the Registry and have not been subject to verification. It is essential that they experience verification to

assure that they fully understand the importance of accurate declarations. Round Three will select proportionately more products by subscribers that have not previously been subject to verification.

Some criteria that have not yet been verified will also be selected for verification in Round Three.

Additionally, the trend continues for subscribers to declare to more difficult-to-meet criteria when achieving higher EPEAT tiers. Round Three will, in part, extend the Round Two Plan, which specifically targeted certain difficult-to-meet, but increasingly, frequently declared criteria.

IEEE revisions are being developed simultaneously with this verification. Round Three will verify to the current wording of the criteria.

V. SELECTION OF PRODUCTS AND CRITERIA FOR VERIFICATION

Selection Process

1. This Verification Round Plan lists the criteria that will be verified, the rules for selecting the subscribers and products, and the method of verification that will be used.
2. Upon adoption of the Plan by the PVC, staff will select the subscribers and products according to the rules in the Plan. The Registry will be searched according to these rules and a spreadsheet will be created including the subset of qualifying products for each criterion. A random number generator will be used to select products for verification where random selection is desired.
3. In some cases the product selection may not be random, for example, when a specific concern has been received from a purchaser or other stakeholder.
4. The PVC will not be informed of the name of the product or subscriber until after they make their initial conformance decision.
5. Individual subscribers will be notified of the products, criteria, and method of verification that have been selected for their products.

Selection Principles

Round Three will be focused on, but not limited to, specifically targeted products/criteria that represent one or more of the following:

- Products by subscribers that have not previously been verified, or which have been verified substantially below average.
- Products that are declared to particularly difficult to achieve criteria.
- Criteria that have not previously been verified.
- Criteria where declared conformance has been observed to be questionable for several products.
- Specific criteria declarations that have been questioned by other subscribers or stakeholders.

Possible Out-of-Sequence Selections

In the event of special circumstances, the PVC may, at its prerogative, decide to schedule an additional investigation(s) at any time, including while Round Three is in progress. If the PVC determines that such investigation should be included as a part of Round Three, this Verification Round Three Plan will be amended and reissued without disrupting the timing of the other verification investigations.

VI. REGISTRY STATISTICS AT THE BEGINNING OF ROUND THREE (as of 11/12/08)

Products on the Registry: 975

Number of active subscribers: 31

Gold products on the Registry: 217

VII. ROUND THREE INVESTIGATIONS

Criterion		Verification Selection and Process (#s as of 11/3/08)	Invstgs
Required 4.5.1.1	Required – ENERGY STAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select products that have been declared to 4.5.1.1 but are not listed on the ENERGY STAR web site as qualified models. Select a product of any subscriber that meets the condition in the first bullet, especially where a “family” of products (e.g. a common model name) is not listed on the ES list. Verify according to the subscribers ability to demonstrate “compliance with all ENERGY STAR requirements” – level one 	7
Required 4.3.1.5	Required – Identification and removal of components containing hazardous materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select notebooks or monitors with flat panels that are not declared to 4.1.3.3, that is, they contain CCFLs with mercury. Select a desktop for subscribers that do not have registered notebooks or monitors for subscribers that have not previously been verified Conduct a level one verification selected for subscribers that have not previously been verified, or which have been verified substantially below average 	11
Following are difficult to meet optional criteria selected for products of subscribers that have not previously been verified, or which have been verified substantially below average.			
4.1.3.3	Optional—Elimination of intentionally added mercury used in light sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select notebooks or monitors with flat panels that are declared to 4.1.3.3 Conduct a level one verification 	2
4.2.1.2	Optional—Minimum content of postconsumer recycled plastic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select products that are declared to 4.2.1.2 or 4.2.1.3 Conduct a level one verification 	1
Total number of investigations			21

Investigation Assignments

QV #	Criterion		No. of Invstgtns
1	4.1.3.3	Optional—Elimination of intentionally added mercury used in light sources	2
1	4.2.1.2	Optional—Minimum content of postconsumer recycled plastic	1
2	4.3.1.5	Identification and removal of components containing hazardous materials	11
3	4.5.1.1	ENERGY STAR	7

#	Verifier
1	Pamela Brody-Heine
2	Stephen Greene
3	Ming-Shen Lai