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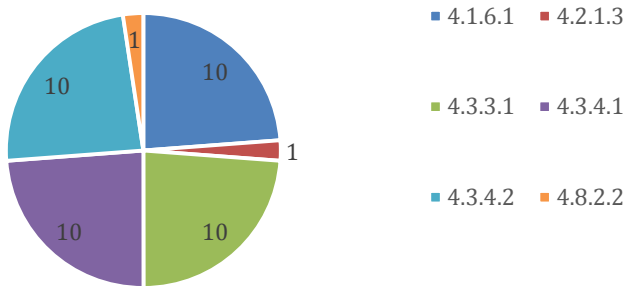
OUTCOMES REPORT
EPEAT VERIFICATION ROUND IE-2013-01

1. Overview of Verification Round

This report provides the detailed results of EPEAT Verification Round IE-2013-01. This Round focused on criteria that have been the subject of questions / inquiries from Subscribers and consisted of a total of 42 investigations (all Level 1) for the IEEE 1680.2™ criteria listed below:

Figure 1:
Number of Investigations by Criterion



- 4.1.6.1 – Required – Reducing BFR/CFR/PVC content of external plastic casings
- 4.2.1.3 – Optional – Minimum 5% to 10% of postconsumer recycled plastic
- 4.3.3.1 – Required – Notification regarding the identification of both materials and components that have hazardous characteristics or special handling needs
- 4.3.4.1 – Required – Preparation of product end-of-life characterization report
- 4.3.4.2 – Required – Minimum reusable/recyclable rate based on requirements of EU WEEE Directive
- 4.8.2.2 – Optional – Packaging 90% compostable/recyclable

Verification Round IE-2013-01 consisted of 42 investigations where products were randomly chosen. All products active at the beginning of the Verification Round were eligible for inclusion in this Round. For the required criteria under investigation, one product from each Subscriber on the Registry at the start of the Round was selected. For optional criteria, all geographies and Subscribers were eligible for inclusion. The Verification Round was performed using Level 1 investigations (i.e. review of Subscriber submissions).

Note: The plan called for 4.6.2.2 to be investigated. However, a clarification on this criterion was published in March 2013 prior to the launch of this Round in April. It was decided that since guidance was just released, Subscribers needed time to take action (if applicable). This criterion will be investigated at a later date.

2. Summary of Outcomes

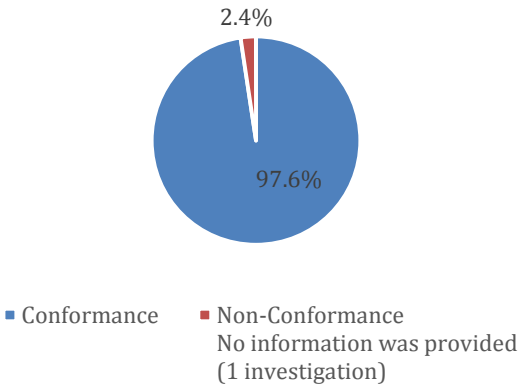
Highlights from this Verification Round are:

- Minimum of **36** Investigations Planned
- **42** Investigations Completed
- **41** Decisions of Conformance
- **1** Decision of Non-Conformance(reason identified in Figure 2 below)

One investigation of a product selected for this round was found to be Non-Conformant due to the fact that the Subscriber provided no information. During the time between EPEAT taking a snapshot of the EPEAT Registry for the Verification Round and starting the Verification Round, the Subscriber responsible for the product shifted the product registration from one Product Registration Entity (PRE) to another. This change removed all contractual obligations with the original PRE, including the provision of verification-related information. Additionally, since the new PRE was not the PRE of record at the time the snapshot was taken, it was not appropriate for them to assume responsibility for the investigation. Contractual relationships between Subscribers and PREs are not the purview of the MSE, who is responsible for maintaining the accuracy of the Registry, and therefore should not interfere with the MSE's obligation. Since the Subscriber did not provide the information within 30 days, as required, they received a Non-Conformance. Because the scheduled investigation could not be completed due to the unique timing, the Subscriber will be selected for investigation for this specific criterion in the next available Verification Round.

This Verification Round is the first for the 1680.2 standard and as EPEAT did with 1680.1, no Subscribers are named in this Outcomes Report. However, in the future, all Non-Conforming Subscribers and products will be named in the Outcomes Report.

Figure 2:
Overall Conformance Status for IE-2013-01
(as percentages of total invesgiations)



In Section 6, Table 1 presents the number of Non-Conformances by criterion. Normally, Table 2 would present further details on Non-Conformances including the identification of Subscribers and products. *However, for this first Verification Round using this standard, the products and Subscribers will not be identified in this report. Non-Conforming products and Subscribers will be identified in subsequent*

Verification Rounds and Outcome Reports.

Following the investigation phase, corrective actions were taken to resolve the identified Non-Conformance. The impact of the corrective action on the Registry was:

- **1** product Archived by Subscriber (which occurred prior to the end of the Verification Round).

3. Key Lessons

Criterion 4.3.3.1:

- During the Verification Round, it became evident that the declaration on the EPEAT Registry did not ask for all the information needed to assess criterion 4.3.3.1. The declaration for criterion 4.3.3.1 on the EPEAT Registry has been revised. The Registry now requires that Subscribers declare the date the product was first placed on the market and provides a data entry field for a URL. It also automatically checks that the URL is valid when the declaration is saved. If the product was placed on the market more than a year prior to product registration, a URL must be entered. For products on the market less than one year, entering the URL is optional. It is the responsibility of the Subscriber to ensure the URL is up to date and is provided for products on the market for more than one year.

Switching Product Registration Entities (PREs) during Verification Rounds:

- In the event that another situation arises where a Subscriber changes PREs during a Verification Round, Subscribers need to understand that the investigation must be completed. The change from one PRE to another is not relevant with respect to Verification Rounds since products are selected based on the snapshot taken of the Registry at the beginning of the Round.

4. General Message to Subscribers

Provision of information for Verification Rounds: The IEEE 1680 standard and the EPEAT subscriber agreements require that Subscribers provide the information identified in Verification Requirements to prove the accuracy of their declarations within 30 days of EPEAT's request. Failure to provide that information is inconsistent with the agreement and may result in termination of the Subscriber from EPEAT.

Initial response to Qualified Verifiers: When contacted regarding participation in a Verification Round, EPEAT staff continue to request that Subscribers respond to the Qualified Verifier 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 Qualified Verifier know that s/he has a valid email address.

5. Looking Forward

Plans for Future Verification Activities: There are two additional Verification Rounds planned for 2013 for Imaging Equipment, and one underway, for a total of 4 Verification Rounds in 2013. Investigations may include 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.

Upcoming Training: A Qualified Verifier training will be held in Portland, Oregon from September 30 through October 3, 2013. Please contact Andrea Desimone at ADesimone@greenelectronicscouncil.org for more information.

6. Investigations Tables

TABLE 1: Summary of Non-Conformance Findings					
Criterion	**Required or Optional**	**Description**	**Total Investigations**	**Completed Investigations**	**Non-Conformances**
4.1.6.1	Required	Reducing BFR/CFR/PVC content of external plastic casings	10	10	0
4.2.1.3	Optional	Minimum 5% to 10% of postconsumer recycled plastic	1	1	0
4.3.3.1	Required	Notification regarding the identification of both materials and components that have hazardous characteristics or special handling needs	10	10	0
4.3.4.1	Required	Preparation of product end-of-life characterization report	10	10	0
4.3.4.2	Required	Minimum reusable/recyclable rate based on requirements of EU WEEE Directive	10	10	0
4.8.2.2	Optional	Packaging 90% compostable/recyclable	1	1	1
		Totals	42	42	1

TABLE 2: Specific Non-Conformance Findings and Corrective Action Taken								
Subscriber	**Product**	**Country**	**Product Type**	**Criterion**	**Required or Optional**	**Criterion Description**	**NC Finding Description**	**Corrective Action Taken**
Subscriber is not revealed during this first verification round for Imaging Equipment.	Product is not revealed.	United States	Printer	4.8.2.2	Optional	Packaging 90% compostable/recyclable	No documentation provided.	Subscriber archived product.

7. Background

To assure the credibility of the EPEAT Registry, verification of the claims by participating manufacturers (called "Subscribers") are rigorous, independent and transparent. Verification is conducted strictly according to policies and procedures described in the IEEE 1680 Standard and in documents provided on www.epeat.net. Subscribers are given no forewarning that their products will be verified and verification is performed based on the declarations as they are in the database at the time the round begins.

In Level 1 verification investigations, Subscribers are required to provide detailed and accurate information to demonstrate their conformance to each criterion of the standard in a timely manner that demonstrates Conformance, such as supply chain management records. In Levels 2 and 3 investigations, EPEAT buys or borrows products without the Subscriber's knowledge, disassembles them, and conducts detailed analytical testing if needed.

Investigations are performed by expert technical contractors who 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 Product Verification Committee) who are also contractors free of conflicts of interest. Verification activities conducted by the Product Verification Committee are done blind to the identity of the products and companies they are judging. The Committee makes a Conformance/Non-Conformance decision on each investigation, based on evidence collected and analyzed by Qualified Verifiers. 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.

Subscribers 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. (EPEAT recommends that Subscribers also examine other products to determine if these declarations should be corrected as well.) If a Subscriber 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 rating tier. If it is a required criterion, they must archive the product. If it is a required corporate criterion, all their products must be archived.