



Green Electronics Council

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OUTCOMES REPORT

EPEAT VERIFICATION ROUND PC-2016-03

1. Overview of Verification Round

Verification Round PC-2016-03 investigated tablets / slates claiming criterion 4.4.2.2. Nine (9) Level 1 investigations were completed on this criterion. In addition, this round contained thirteen (13) Level 2 / 3 investigations for PC and Display products where the manufacturer had never undergone Level 2 / 3 lab testing.

Criterion	Criterion Title	Investigation Level
4.1.8.1	Large parts free of PVC	Level 2/3
4.3.1.3	Easy disassembly of external enclosures	Level 2
4.3.1.5	Identification and removal of components containing hazardous materials	Level 2
4.3.1.7	Molded/glued in metal eliminated or removable	Level 2
4.3.2.2	Optional – Marking of plastics	Level 2/3
4.4.2.2	Modular design	Level 1
4.8.2.1	Separable packing materials	Level 2
4.8.2.2	Packaging 90% recyclable and plastics labeled	Level 2

In total, 22 investigations were performed on eight (8) criteria where three (3) of the criteria were Required and five (5) criteria were Optional. Eleven (11) manufacturers were investigated in 4 countries (Australia, Belgium, Brazil, and United States) in the Round.

2. Summary of Outcomes

Highlights from this Verification Round:

- 22 investigations completed
- 14 decisions of Conformance

- 7 decisions of Non-Conformance
- 1 decision of Inconclusive
- 1 investigation was not completed since criterion was not claimed for chosen product

Figure 1: Overall Conformance Status for PC-2016-03 (by number of investigations)

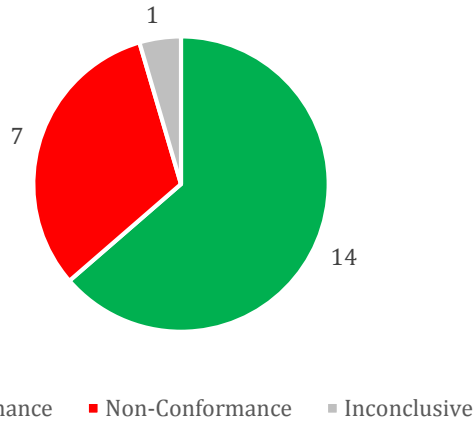


Figure 2: Reasons for Non-Conformance

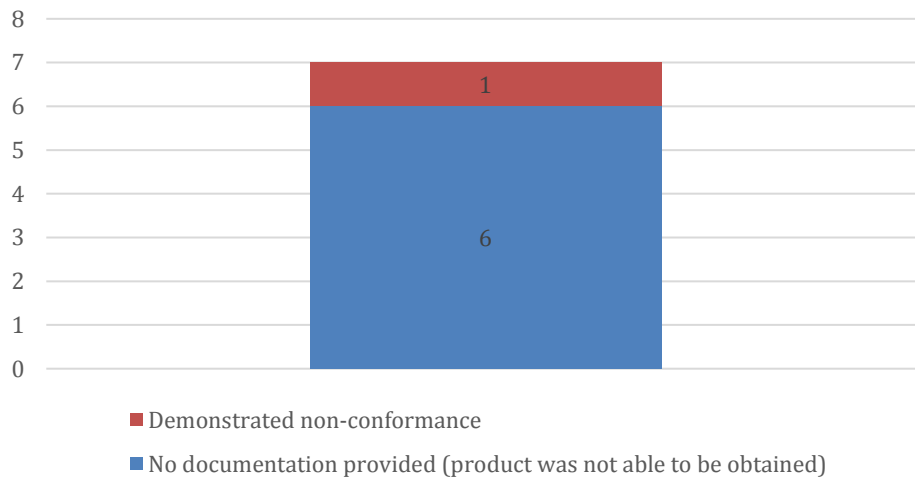


Table 1 below summarizes the number of investigations that were completed, inconclusive and which investigations resulted in a decision of Non-Conformance.

TABLE 2: Summary of Non-Conformance Findings

Criterion	Description		Completed	Non-Conformances	Inconclusive
4.1.8.1	Optional	Large plastic parts free of PVC	2	1	0
4.3.1.3	Required	Easy disassembly of external enclosure	2	1	0
4.3.1.5	Required	Identification and removal of components containing hazardous materials	2	1	0
4.3.1.7	Optional	Molded/glued in metal eliminated or removable	2	1	0
4.3.2.2	Optional	Marking of plastics	2	2	0
4.4.2.2	Optional	Modular design	9	0	0
4.8.2.1	Required	Separable packing materials	2	1	0
4.8.2.2	Optional	Packaging 90% recyclable and plastics labeled	1	0	1

3. Key Lessons

Criterion 4.3.2.2: Marking of plastics

Criterion 4.3.2.2 references ISO 11469 standard. However, in order to be in accordance with ISO 11469, Manufacturers must use the symbols and terms given in ISO 1043. There are four parts to ISO 1043:

1. Basic polymers and their special characteristics
2. Fillers and reinforcing materials
3. Plasticizers
4. Flame retardants

During this verification round, GEC discovered that Part 4 (flame retardants) of the ISO 1043:1996 standard was amended in 2016. Although the changes to ISO 1043 had already been implemented, GEC did not issue any Non-Conformances for being out of compliance with the amended version of ISO 1043. Recognizing that making changes in the supply chain takes time, EPEAT Participating Manufacturers therefore have until November 14, 2017 to put these changes into effect. After November 14, 2017, any plastic markings that are not in accordance with the updated ISO 1043:2016 standard may result in a nonconformance for these criteria.

See the EPEAT Conformity Guidance Packets for up-to-date information on other conformity issues associated with 4.3.2.2.

Level 2 / 3 Lab Testing

GEC is committed to having the Conformity Assurance Bodies perform Level 2 / 3 lab tests. Per section 7 below, Both in Level 2 investigations and in Level 3 investigations, the Conformity Assurance Body attempts to obtain a product without the Manufacturer’s knowledge or involvement. In some cases, the Conformity Assurance Body is unable to obtain a product and must contact the Manufacturer directly to purchase a product. In these cases, it is the responsibility of

the Manufacturer to provide their Conformity Assurance Body with a way to obtain a product in a timely fashion. Failure of the Conformity Assurance Body to obtain a product may result in Non-Conformance(s) for the Manufacturer and further investigation.

4. General Message to Manufacturers

Products “Active” on the EPEAT Registry:

All Active products on the EPEAT Registry are subject to Verification. When products reach their end of life, Manufacturers should remove the products from the EPEAT Registry. If a product which is Active on the EPEAT Registry has gone end of life and a Manufacturer cannot obtain required evidence due to the age of the product, it would still be considered a Non-Conformance.

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:

Four Verification Rounds are planned for PCs and Displays in 2017.

Conformity Guidance Packets:

This and all future Verification Rounds have and will be conducted according to the guidance provided in the Conformity Guidance Packets. Manufacturers can find these packets in the Key Documents section by logging into EPEAT.net.

6. Investigations Table

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

Required or Optional	Criterion	Criterion Description	Country	Product Type	Participating Manufacturer	Product	NC Finding Description	Corrective Action Taken
Required	4.8.2.1	Separable packing materials	United States	Desktop	IDEdge	Ultra-Small Desktop	No documentation provided (product was not able to be obtained)	Conformity Assessment Body Archived product.
Required	4.3.1.3	Easy disassembly of external enclosures	United States	Desktops	IDEdge	Ultra-Small Desktop	No documentation provided (product was not able to be obtained)	Conformity Assessment Body Archived product.
Required	4.3.1.5	Identification and removal of components containing hazardous materials	United States	Desktops	IDEdge	Ultra-Small Desktop	No documentation provided (product was not able to be obtained)	Conformity Assessment Body Archived product.
Optional	4.3.1.7	Molded/glued in metal eliminated or removable	United States	Desktops	IDEdge	Ultra-Small Desktop	No documentation provided (product was not able to be obtained)	Conformity Assessment Body Archived product.
Optional	4.1.8.1	Large parts free of PVC	United States	Desktops	IDEdge	Ultra-Small Desktop	No documentation provided (product was not able to be obtained)	Conformity Assessment Body Archived product.
Optional	4.3.2.2	Optional – Marking of plastics	United States	Desktops	IDEdge	Ultra-Small Desktop	No documentation provided (product was not able to be obtained)	Conformity Assessment Body Archived product.
Optional	4.3.2.2	Optional – Marking of plastics	Brazil	Desktops	Daten	DT02-Bv2	Demonstrated non-conformance	Manufacturer corrected marking issue.

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 a four-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 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.