



Green Electronics Council

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OUTCOMES REPORT

EPEAT VERIFICATION ROUND PC-2016-04

1. Overview of Verification Round

This report provides the detailed results of EPEAT Verification Round PC-2016-04. This round focused on two types of investigation:

The following criteria from 1680.1 were investigated during Verification Round PC-2016-04:

- 4.5.1.1 - ENERGY STAR
 - 4.5.1.2 - Early adoption of new ENERGY STAR specification
 - 4.3.2.2 - Marking of plastics
 - 4.8.2.1 - Separable packing materials
- 1) Level 0 Investigations: 4.5.1.1 was first investigated through Level 0 investigations, which involved the auditor reviewing publically available documentation. This criterion was targeted because a new version (7.0) of the EPA Energy Star became effective on July 1, 2016. All manufacturers of monitors and signage displays were investigated during this Verification Round for at least one product.
 - 2) Level 1 investigations: All Manufacturers claiming 4.5.1.2 for EPA Energy Star Version 7.0 were investigated for one product. All manufacturers claiming 4.3.2.2 were investigated for one product due to high levels of non-conformances in previous rounds. Additionally, one manufacturer was investigated for 4.8.2.1 for a specific product due to a previous inconclusive investigation from the PC-2016-02 Verification Round.
 - i. All Active products were included.
 - ii. All manufacturers claiming 4.3.2.2.
 - iii. All manufacturers of monitors and signage displays were investigated for 4.5.1.1, while those claiming 4.5.2.1 were also investigated.
 - iv. For one manufacturer, a specific product was chosen due to an inconclusive investigation from a previous round and investigated for 4.8.2.1
 - v. All geographies and all Manufacturers were included.
 - vi. Manufacturers participated in no more than three investigations in this round.

2. Summary of Outcomes

Highlights from this Verification Round:

- 76 investigations completed
- 54 decisions of Conformance
- 21 decisions of Non-Conformance
- 0 decisions of Inconclusive
- 1 investigation was cancelled

Figure 1: Overall Conformance Status for PC 2016-04 (as a percentage of total investigations)

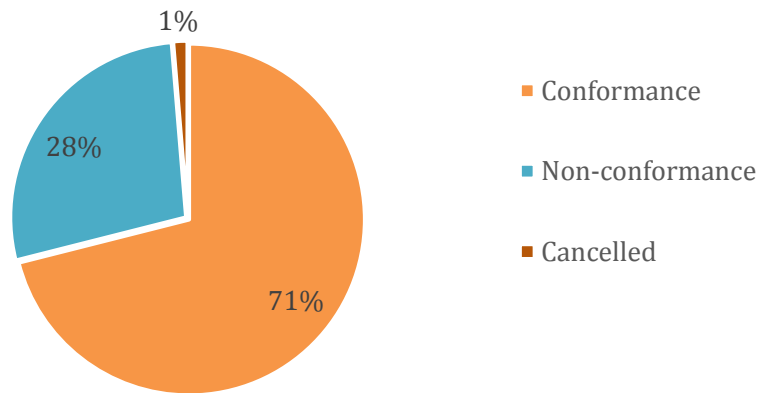
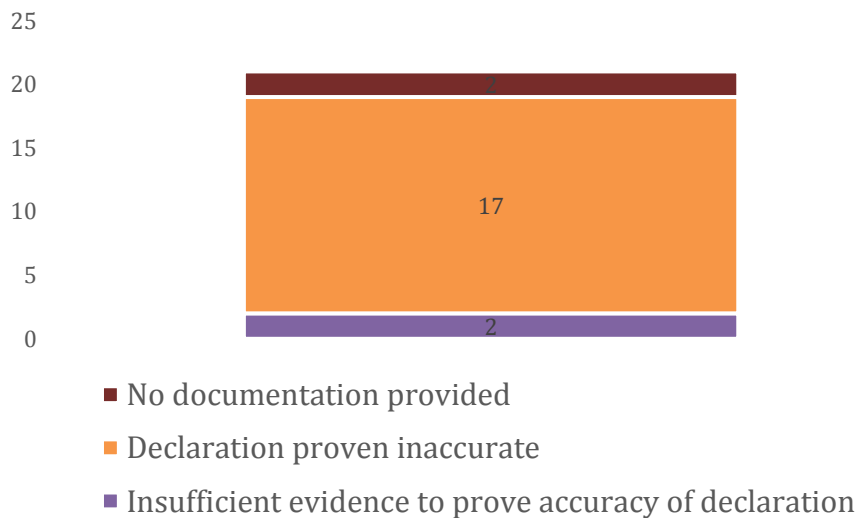


Figure 2: Reasons for Nonconformances





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Table 1 below summarizes the nonconformances for manufacturer, product, criterion, and the corrective action taken.

TABLE 1: Specific Non-Conformance Findings and Corrective Action Taken								
Participating Manufacturer	Product	Country	Product Type	Criterion	Required or Optional	Criterion Description	NC Finding Description	Corrective Action Taken
Ace Computers	VisionSense M2798	United States	Monitors	4.5.1.1	R	ENERGY STAR	Insufficient evidence to prove accuracy of declaration	Product archived by Manufacturer
Ace Computers	LogiCAD 55525A	United States	Workstations	4.3.2.2	O	Marking of plastics	Declaration proven inaccurate	Criterion undeclared by Manufacturer
Action S.A.	Sierra 500X	Poland	Desktops	4.3.2.2	O	Marking of plastics	Declaration proven inaccurate	Criterion undeclared by Manufacturer
Atrust Computer Corp	T180	Australia	Thin Clients	4.3.2.2	O	Marking of plastics	Declaration proven inaccurate	Manufacturer provided evidence of changes made resulting in conformance
Dell Inc	Latitude 12 Rugged Extreme	United Kingdom	Notebooks	4.3.2.2	O	Marking of plastics	Declaration proven inaccurate	Manufacturer provided evidence of changes made resulting in conformance
Digital Computer	Ascent Desktop-D-XXXX	Brazil	Desktops	4.3.2.2	O	Marking of plastics	Declaration proven inaccurate	Manufacturer provided evidence of changes made resulting in conformance

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Participating Manufacturer	Product	Country	Product Type	Criterion	Required or Optional	Criterion Description	NC Finding Description	Corrective Action Taken
EIZO Corporation	FlexScan S2133	United States	Monitors	4.3.2.2	O	Marking of plastics	Declaration proven inaccurate	Manufacturer archived product
Gammatech Computer Corporation	SA14	United States	Notebooks	4.3.2.2	O	Marking of plastics	Declaration proven inaccurate	Criterion undeclared by Manufacturer
GETAC	S410	United States	Notebooks	4.3.2.2	O	Marking of plastics	Declaration proven inaccurate	Manufacturer did not take Corrective Action so CAB archived the product
Howard Technology Solutions, A Division of Howard	QS77-IQ	United States	Desktops	4.3.2.2.	O	Marking of plastics	No documentation provided	Criterion undeclared by Manufacturer
HP Inc	Z820 Workstation (ENERGY STAR)	Poland	Workstations	4.3.2.2.	O	Marking of plastics	Declaration proven inaccurate	Product archived by Manufacturer
Hyundai IT America Corp	P247DT	United States	Monitors	4.3.2.2.	O	Marking of plastics	Declaration proven inaccurate	Manufacturer provided evidence of changes made resulting in conformance
Iiyama Corporation	ProLite X2380HS	United Kingdom	Monitors	4.3.2.2.	O	Marking of plastics	Insufficient documentation to prove accuracy of declaration	Product archived by Manufacturer
MMD- Monitors & Displays Taiwan Ltd	Phillips 221B3L	Portugal	Monitors	4.5.1.1	R	ENERGY STAR	No documentation provided	Product archived by Manufacturer
NCS Technologies	CIRRUS TZ2 ZERO CLIENT	United States	Thin Clients	4.3.2.2	O	Marking of plastics	Declaration proven inaccurate	Product archived by Manufacturer

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Participating Manufacturer	Product	Country	Product Type	Criterion	Required or Optional	Criterion Description	NC Finding Description	Corrective Action Taken
NTT System S.A.	NTT Business W 947G	Poland	Desktops	4.3.2.2	O	Marking of plastics	Declaration proven inaccurate	Manufacturer did not take corrective action so CAB archived the product.
Panasonic	Toughbook 54	United States	Notebooks	4.3.2.2	O	Marking of plastics	Declaration proven inaccurate	Criterion undeclared by Manufacturer
Samsung Electronics	S19E200BR	France	Monitors	4.3.2.2	O	Marking of plastics	Declaration proven inaccurate	Product archived by Manufacturer
Toshiba	Portege A30-C/A30t-C PT363E, PT365E	Germany	Notebooks	4.3.2.2	O	Marking of plastics	Declaration proven inaccurate	Manufacturer provided evidence of changes made resulting in conformance
TPV Technology	AOC I2475PXQU	Germany	Monitors	4.3.2.2	O	Marking of plastics	Declaration proven inaccurate	Criterion undeclared by Manufacturer
ViewSonic Corporation	VS15164/ SC-T35	Canada	Thin Clients	4.3.2.2	O	Marking of plastics	Declaration proven inaccurate	Manufacturer provided evidence of changes made resulting in conformance

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 standard was amended in 2016. Although the changes to ISO 1043 had already been implemented, GEC did not issue any nonconformances for being out of compliance with the new version of ISO 1043. Recognizing that making changes in the supply chain takes time, EPEAT Participating Manufacturers therefore will have nine (9) months to put these changes into effect. After nine (9) months, any plastic markings that are not in accordance with the updated ISO 1043 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.

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:

All 2016 Verification Rounds for PCs and Displays were kicked off. Four Verification Rounds are planned for PCs and Displays. Some 2017 Verification Rounds have already kicked off.

6. 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 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 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.