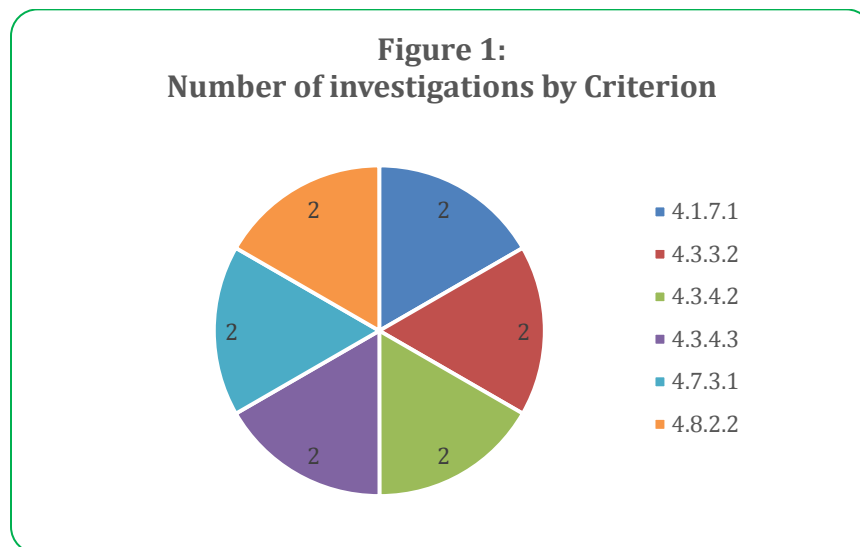




OUTCOMES REPORT EPEAT VERIFICATION ROUND TV-2013-01

1. Overview of Verification Round

This report provides the detailed results of EPEAT Verification Round TV-2013-01. This Round focused on criteria that have been the subject of questions / inquiries from Subscribers and consisted of a total of 12 investigations (all Level 1) for the IEEE 1680.3™ criteria listed below:



- 4.1.7.1 – Optional – Reducing BFR/CFR/PVC content of external plastic casings
- 4.3.3.2 – Optional – Marking provided on the product identifying items containing materials with special handling needs
- 4.3.4.2 – Optional – Minimum 90% reusable/recyclable
- 4.3.4.3 – Optional – Preparation of end-of-life characterization report
- 4.7.3.1 – Optional – Product life-cycle assessment and public disclosure of analyses
- 4.8.2.2 – Optional – Packaging 90% compostable/recyclable

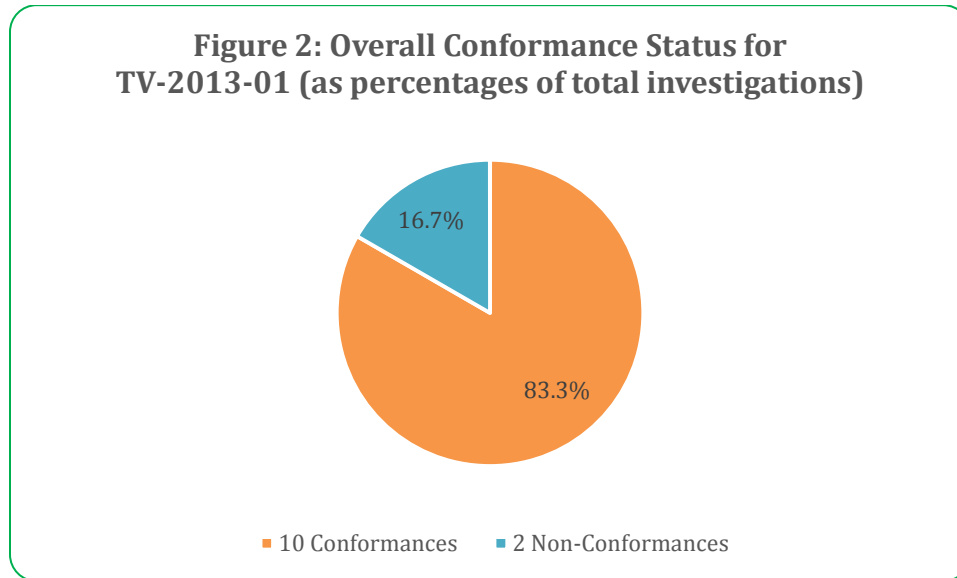
Verification Round TV-2013-01 consisted of 12 investigations where products were randomly chosen. All products active at the beginning of the Verification Round were eligible for inclusion in this Round. Products were chosen as follows: a single product claiming all 6 optional criteria was chosen at random from each Subscriber. Each product was investigated for all 6 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). Additionally, all applicable Product Registration Entities (PREs) were represented in this Verification Round.

2. Summary of Outcomes

Highlights from this Verification Round are:

- 12 Investigations Planned
- 12 Investigations Completed
- 10 Decisions of Conformance
- 2 Decisions of Non-Conformance

Two investigations resulted in Non-Conformances. In both instances, the Subscriber did not provide sufficient documentation to prove Conformance.



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, the Subscriber provided additional evidence for one Non-Conformance (criterion 4.3.4.2) to move into conformance. While additional evidence was provided for the 2nd non-conformance (criterion 4.1.7.1), the documentation was insufficient to demonstrate Conformance. The impact on the Registry was that 1 product was archived by the EPEAT MSE since the Subscriber did not undeclare criterion 4.1.7.1 or prove conformance during the corrective action phase.

3. Key Lessons

Criterion 4.1.7.1:

- This criterion requires documentation of a Conformance Assurance System (CAS). A CAS is defined in the Standard as “a process to ensure conformity to a design requirement where the key consideration is control of the supply chain of components, materials, packaging, and/or services...” Subscribers are required to **demonstrate all 4 elements of a CAS:**

1. Plan: Description of the requirement to the supplier.
2. Do: Collection of documents that show conformity.
3. Check: Demonstration of how conformance is assured.
4. Act: Corrective action.

Criterion 4.3.3.2:

- This criterion requires a marking to be provided on the product identifying items containing materials with special handling needs. The marking cannot reference an external website or other information source.

Response Time:

- Two investigations resulted in Non-Conformances due to the Subscriber not providing sufficient evidence within the Verification Round. The Verification Round lasts 30 days. Within those 30 days Subscribers must provide all documentation needed to demonstrate conformance. Subscribers should not wait until the deadline to submit documentation, since the PRE may need to ask clarifying questions or request additional evidence. If a Subscriber waits until the end of the Verification Round to provide information, they may receive a Non-Conformance if there is not time for clarification or submittal of additional evidence to demonstrate conformance.

Corrective Action for Optional Criteria:

- One product was archived by the MSE at the end of the Round because the Subscriber failed to bring the product into Conformance. If a Subscriber cannot demonstrate conformance to an optional criterion, they have the option to undeclare the criterion as a Corrective Action but this must happen by the end of the allotted 14-day Corrective Action Phase.

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 Televisions for a total of 3 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: Conformity Assessment 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
4.1.7.1	Optional	Reducing BFR/CFR/PVC content of external plastic casings	2	2	1
4.3.3.2	Optional	Marking provided on the product identifying items containing materials with special handling needs	2	2	0
4.3.4.2	Optional	Minimum 90% reusable/recyclable	2	2	1
4.3.4.3	Optional	Preparation of product end-of-life characterization report	2	2	0
4.7.3.1	Optional	Product life-cycle assessment and public disclosure of analyses	2	2	0
4.8.2.2	Optional	Packaging 90% compostable/recyclable	2	2	0
		Totals	12	12	2

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

Subscriber	Product	Country	Product Type	PRE	Criterion	Required or Optional	Criterion Description	NC Finding Description	Corrective Action Taken
Subscriber is not revealed during this first verification round for Televisions.	Product is not revealed.	United States	Television	ULE	4.1.7.1	Optional	Reducing BFR/CFR/PVC content of external plastic casings	Insufficient documentation to prove conformance	Subscriber did not demonstrate Conformance or undeclared the criterion. The EPEAT MSE Archived the product.
Subscriber is not revealed during this first verification round for Televisions.	Product is not revealed.	United States	Television	ULE	4.3.4.2	Optional	Minimum 90% reusable/recyclable	Insufficient documentation to prove conformance	Subscriber provided evidence demonstrating Conformance

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.