

# EPEAT Program Monthly Transparency Report

## Participating Manufacturer Use of COVID Policy Modifications in December 2022



Report Date: January 11, 2023

### 1.0 Overview

The financial and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are unprecedented in scale, and global in nature. The Global Electronics Council (GEC) recognizes that since the pandemic began, businesses large and small have faced a plethora of challenges ranging from staffing shortages and raw material constraints, to diminished production capacity, and transportation logistics issues. Since April 2020, GEC has been actively monitoring these and other COVID-related impacts to EPEAT Program activities and implemented a series of temporary conformity assurance modifications to address them. As the impacts to the EPEAT Program have evolved, so too, have GEC's COVID-related conformity assurance modifications.

To continue balancing the credibility of EPEAT with the reality of ongoing global impacts from the pandemic, in December 2021 GEC authorized the EPEAT Program to issue new temporary conformity assurance modifications (which took effect on January 1, 2022), which was based on stakeholder outreach and consultation in Q4 2021. GEC determined that the EPEAT Program must take action to address the following COVID-related impacts to program activities:

- Participating Manufacturer delays in obtaining required verification-related documentation due to service delays (laboratory testing backlogs and challenge and delays associated with completion of onsite audits).
- Participating Manufacturer use of components or suppliers that may not meet EPEAT Criteria due to unprecedented supply chain bottlenecks, transportation logistics issues, and material shortages.
- Reduction in EPEAT-registered product availability for EPEAT Purchasers.

The temporary conformity assurance modifications and associated policy changes to address the impacts identified above were available in an updated version of the *EPEAT Policy Manual (P65)*, *EPEAT Conformity Assurance Implementation Manual (P66)*, and a *Frequently Asked Questions and Implementation Guidance (2022)* companion document. These documents were available through either the [EPEAT Registry](#), an EPEAT Registry account under "Resources", or [upon request](#).

### 2.0 About this Report

GEC published this EPEAT Program Monthly Transparency Report on a monthly basis in 2022 to enable all EPEAT Program stakeholders to understand how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted Participating Manufacturers and to communicate how the temporary COVID-related conformity assurance modifications were being used by Participating Manufacturers.

GEC-approved Conformity Assurance Bodies (CABs) were required to report specific details regarding their Participating Manufacturer clients' use of COVID policy modifications to EPEAT on a monthly basis.

The EPEAT Program then aggregated the data from CABs to produce this Monthly Transparency Report, which provided insights regarding uptake of the temporary policy modifications.

This report is the final edition of the EPEAT Program Monthly Transparency Report and reflects the use of COVID policy modifications by all active EPEAT Participating Manufacturers from December 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

## December 2022 Use of COVID Policy Modifications

The EPEAT Program’s temporary conformity assurance modifications were only applicable to specific conformity assurance challenges and limited to specific EPEAT Criteria identified by the EPEAT Program.

This report presents aggregated data on the use of COVID policy modifications among all active Participating Manufacturers for the period from December 1 through December 31, 2022. Table 1 provides a summary of the number of Participating Manufacturers currently using each of the temporary COVID policy modifications for this period.

COVID Modification	Number of Participating Manufacturers Using Modification
Delay in onsite audit	0
Force majeure attestation for components (limited to a 6-month period of use for each component)	0
Force majeure attestation for suppliers (limited to a 6-month period of use for each supplier)	0
TV product meets ENERGY STAR for Televisions Version 7.0 (available until the effective date of ENERGY STAR for Televisions Version 9.0)	0

There was no change in the number of Participating Manufacturers using the temporary COVID modifications from the previous reporting period.

## Temporary COVID-19 Policy Modifications Withdrawn

**The temporary COVID-19 policy modifications were withdrawn on January 1, 2023** due to lack of uptake by Participating Manufacturers. No Participating Manufacturers used any of the modifications at any point in 2022. As a result, this is the final issue of the EPEAT Program Monthly Transparency Report.