Green Electronics Council

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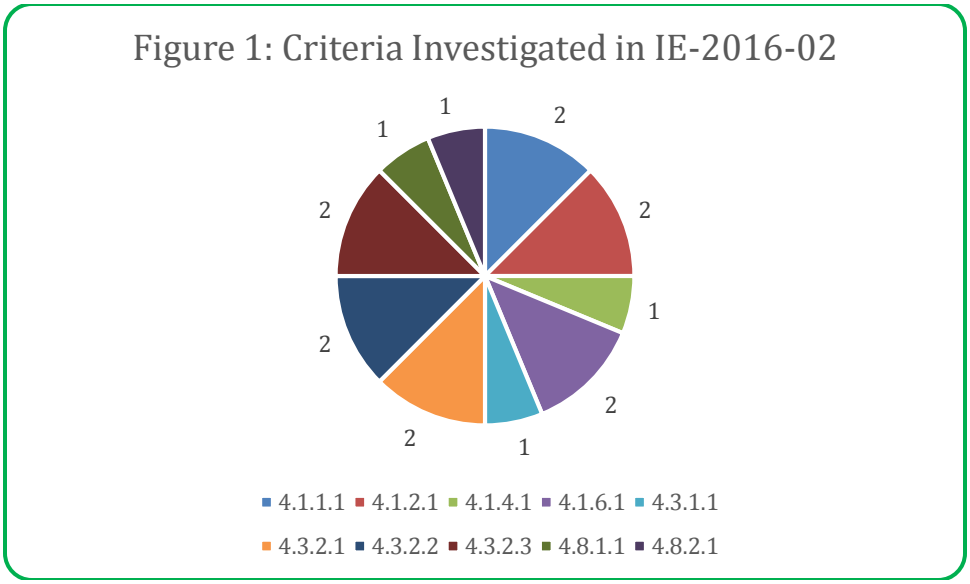
OUTCOMES REPORT
EPEAT VERIFICATION ROUND IE-2016-02

1. Overview of Verification Round

Verification Round IE-2016-02 for the IEEE 1680.2™ Standard for the Environment Assessment of Imaging Equipment focused on investigation of 13 criteria as applicable to chosen products. The Verification Round investigated, as applicable, all verification requirements for the following criteria:

1. 4.1.1.1 Required – Compliance with provisions of European Union RoHS Directive
2. 4.1.2.1 Optional – Further reduction of the use of EU RoHS Directive hazardous substances (cadmium)
3. 4.1.4.1 Optional – Reduction of substances on the EU REACH Candidate List of SVHCs
4. 4.1.6.1 Required – Reducing BFR/CFR/CDP content of external plastic casings
5. 4.3.1.1 Required – Ease of disassembly of product
6. 4.3.1.2 Optional – Ease of disassembly of consumer products
7. 4.3.2.1 Required – Use of single recyclable plastic type per plastic part
8. 4.3.2.2 Required – Restriction on materials not compatible with reuse and recycling
9. 4.3.2.3 Required – Manual separation and marking of plastics
10. 4.8.1.1 Required – Elimination of intentionally added heavy metals in packaging
11. 4.8.2.1 Required – Separable packing materials
12. 4.8.2.2 Optional – Packaging 90% compostable/recyclable
13. 4.8.2.3 Required – Plastics marked in packaging materials

This Round is intended to assure conformance for imaging equipment. This Round involved lab evaluation of two randomly chosen imaging equipment products. The Round consisted of twenty-one (21) investigations. There were sixteen (16) Level 2 / 3 investigations and five (5) Level 1 investigations. Due to the expense of one of the selected products, some investigations slated for Level 2 and Level 3 were investigated using Level 1, per GEC policy. A Level 1 investigation involves a review of Manufacturer submissions. In Level 2 and 3 investigations a lab chosen by the CAB acquires products without the Manufacturer's knowledge, disassembles them, and conducts detailed analytical testing, as appropriate.

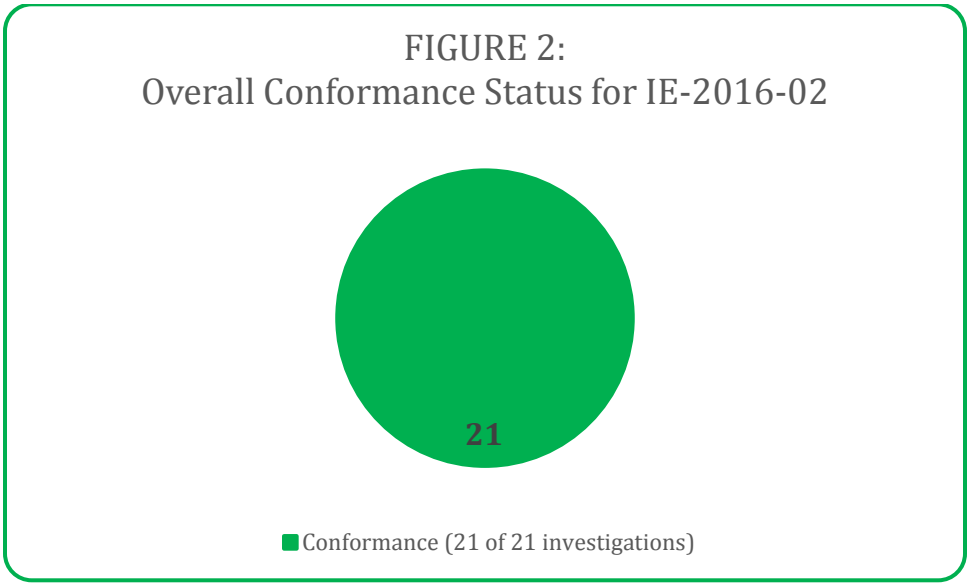


Conformity Assurance Bodies with active imaging equipment products and with clients whose products have never been tested in Level 2 / Level 3 verification rounds to date were eligible in this Round. Each Conformity Assurance Body involved had lab testing completed on no more than two products. Each Manufacturer had lab testing completed for no more than 1 product.

2. Summary of Outcomes

Highlights from this Verification Round are:

- *21 investigations completed*
- *21 decisions of Conformance*



3. General Message to Manufacturers

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.

4. Looking Forward

Plans for Future Verification Activities:

There are three Verification Rounds planned for 2017 for 1680.2 (Imaging Equipment). These Rounds may include Level 0, Level 1, Level 2 and/or Level 3 investigations.

Conformity Assessment Protocols:

The Conformity Assessment Protocols are in the process of being replaced by Conformity Guidance Packets for each criterion. Manufacturers and Conformity Assessment Bodies can access this information from the "My Account" page of www.epeat.net.

5. 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 product.