

## **Green Electronics Council**

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# PLAN FOR VERIFICATION ROUND PC-2017-02

PCs and Displays January 2017

#### I. PURPOSE AND CONTENTS OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document outlines the plan for a Verification Round of Investigations to be performed in accordance with P15 Verification Procedure, this Verification Plan, and EPEAT scheme rules.

#### II. SELECTION OF CRITERIA AND PRODUCTS FOR VERIFICATION

Verification Round PC-2017-02 will investigate criteria from IEEE 1680.1 which had high rates of Non-Conformance during the last four Verification Rounds or which have not been recently investigated. Six (6) targeted Level 0 investigations are planned for this round. At the conclusion of the Level 0 phase, an additional number (to be determined) of Level 1 investigations will be conducted. The number of investigations will be chosen taking a variety of factors into account including which criteria are currently being claimed by individual manufacturers. In addition, all Level 0 investigations that yielded a decision of inconclusive will automatically move to the Level 1 phase.

The criteria for investigation include the following:

- 4.1.5.1 Optional Elimination of intentionally added hexavalent chromium
- 4.2.1.3 Optional Higher content of postconsumer recycled plastic
- 4.5.2.1 Optional Renewable energy accessory available
- 4.5.2.2 Optional Renewable energy accessory standard
- 4.6.1.2 Optional Auditing of recycling vendors
- 4.7.1.1 Required Demonstration of corporate environmental policy consistent with ISO 14001
- 4.8.2.2 Optional Packaging 90% recyclable and plastics labeled

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 Level 1 investigations, an Auditor assesses Conformance to a criterion by examining information submitted by a Participating Manufacturer. The Manufacturer is required to provide detailed and accurate information in a 60-day period.

The products and criteria will be selected as follows:					
	Selection Process:	Notes:			
	+				
CL 4	A master list of all products will be pulled	All products that are currently active in			
Step 1	from the EPEAT Registry.	the Registry will be included.			
Level 0 ₹					
Step 2 –	Sort the list of products on 4.5.2.1. From	Manufacturers with previous Non-			
Level 0	this list, GEC will randomly select a	Conformances (since PC-2015-04) that			
selection	product for each targeted Manufacturer	are currently claiming 4.5.2.1 will be			
Selection	for Level 0 investigation.	investigated for this criterion.			
	<b>↓</b>				
Step 3	Check that specific products and criteria	A specific criterion on a specific product			
	chosen were not verified within the past	may not be verified more than once			
	year.	every six months.			
	Level 1 <b>▼</b>				
Step 4 –	Sort the master list of products on	Manufacturers with previous Non-			
begin	criterion 4.2.1.3. From this list, GEC will	Conformances claiming high levels of			
Level 1	randomly select a product for each	recycled content will be investigated for			
selection	targeted Manufacturer claiming 4.2.1.3.	this criterion.			
	<b>V</b>				
Step 5	Sort the master list of products on	Manufacturers with previous Non-			
	criterion 4.5.2.2. From this list, GEC will	Conformances will be investigated for			
	randomly select a product from any	this criterion.			
	Manufacturers claiming this criterion.				
	•				
Step 6	Sort the master list of products on	This criterion has not been investigated			
	criterion 4.1.5.1. From this list, GEC will	recently.			
	randomly select products claiming this				
	criterion.				
Step 7	Sort the master list of products on	Manufacturers will be chosen who have			
Jeep /	criterion 4.6.1.2 From this list, GEC will	not yet or recently been investigated for			
	randomly select products claiming this	this criterion.			
	criterion.				
	•				
Step 8	Sort the master list of products on	This criterion has not been investigated			
	criterion 4.7.1.1. From this list, GEC will	recently.			
	randomly select products claiming this				
	criterion.				
	•				
Step 9	Sort the master list of products, on	Manufacturers with previous Non-			
	criterion 4.8.2.2. From this list, GEC will	Conformances (since PC-2015-04) that			
	randomly select products claiming	are currently claiming 4.8.2.2 will be			

	4.8.2.2.	investigated for this criterion.	
	<b>.</b>		
Step 10	Check that specific products and criteria chosen were not verified within the past year.	A specific criterion on a specific product may not be verified more than once every six months.	

- All products that are currently active in the Registry are eligible for inclusion.
- All geographies and Manufacturers are eligible for inclusion.
- Exception is as follows: If a criterion is randomly selected for a product and that product has been investigated against that criterion in the last six months, a new product will be randomly selected for that criterion.
- For targeted, Level 1 investigations, Manufacturers will not be subject to more than four investigations during this Round.

#### III. VERIFICATION PROCESSS

The Verification Round will proceed in accordance with current procedures, as outlined below.

## Level 0 Investigations - Targeted Criteria and Manufacturers:

The Level 0 portion of the Verification Round will proceed in accordance with current procedures, as outlined below.

- The EPEAT Scheme will take a "snapshot" of the Registry, from which products will be selected for investigation.
- The EPEAT Scheme will instruct Conformity Assurance Bodies (if applicable see Section V) to proceed with the investigations.
- Conformity Assurance Bodies will assign investigations to (an) Auditor(s). The Auditor(s) will NOT notify the subject Manufacturers that their products are being investigated at this time.
- The Auditors will perform the investigations as assigned within the allotted time, and prepare an Investigation Report for each investigation, recommending conformance or inconclusive based on publicly available data.
- Conformity Assurance Bodies will review all Investigation Reports to ensure they are
  clear and complete and the evidence supports the recommendation, and will forward
  the Report and supporting evidence to the EPEAT Scheme. At the same time,
  Conformity Assurance Body will forward the draft Reports (without the final Conformity
  Decision Panel decision) to the subject Manufacturers.
- Investigation reports will be reviewed by the Conformity Decision Panel or members of the Green Electronics Council staff and a decision will be made regarding conformity.
   The CDP makes a final decision on all recommendations of Non-Conformance. Either

GEC staff members or the CDP may make final decisions on recommendations of conformance or inconclusive. The Conformity Decision Panel and GEC staff members will be blind to the specific products and Manufacturers for which they are making conformity decisions. In the case of a finding of inconclusive, the EPEAT Scheme will launch a Level 1 investigation. The Verification Process for Level 1 investigations can be seen below.

Conformity Assurance Bodies will inform the subject Manufacturers of the Conformity
Decision Panel's conformity decision. For decisions of Non-Conformance, Manufacturers
will be required to take corrective action within 14 calendar days to restore the accuracy
of the declaration in the EPEAT Registry.

#### Level 1 Investigations - Targeted Criteria and Manufacturers:

The Level 1 portion of the Verification Round will proceed in accordance with current procedures, as outlined below.

- The Conformity Decision Panel will approve this Verification Round Plan.
- The Green Electronics Council will take a "snapshot" of the Registry. Products will be selected as per this document.
- The Verification Round Plan will be published on epeat.net.
- The Green Electronics Council will instruct Conformity Assurance Bodies (if applicable see Section V) to proceed with the investigations.
- Conformity Assurance Bodies will assign investigations to (an) Auditor(s), and will notify the subject Manufacturers that their products are being investigated.
- The Auditors will perform the investigations as assigned within 60 calendar days, and prepare an Investigation Report for each investigation, recommending conformance or nonconformance.
- Conformity Assurance Bodies will review all Investigation Reports to ensure they are clear and complete and the evidence supports the recommendation, and will forward the Report and supporting evidence to the Green Electronics Council.
- Investigation reports will be reviewed by the Conformity Decision Panel or members of
  the Green Electronics Council staff and a decision will be made regarding conformity.
  The CDP makes a final decision on all recommendations of Non-Conformance. Either
  GEC staff members or the CDP may make final decisions on recommendations of
  conformance or inconclusive. The Conformity Decision Panel and GEC staff members
  will be blind to the specific products and Manufacturers for which they are making
  conformity decisions.
- Conformity Assurance Bodies will inform the subject Manufacturers of the Conformity
  Decision Panel's conformity decision. For decisions of Non-Conformance, Manufacturers
  will be required to take corrective action within 14 calendar days to restore the accuracy
  of the declaration in the EPEAT Registry.

• The Green Electronics Council will publish a "Verification Round Outcomes Report" identifying the nonconforming products and Manufacturers, as well as the action taken to restore accuracy of the declarations in the Registry.

## IV. CONFORMITY DECISION PANEL

The following individuals are the members of the Conformity Decision Panel:

- Libby Chaplin, CEO, Arcadian Solutions
- Jack Geibig, President, Ecoform
- Robert Pfahl, Pfahl Consulting L.L.C.
- Annette Roesler, Ph.D., Independent Professional Chemist

# V. PRODUCT REGISTRATION ENTITIES AND QUALIFIED VERIFIERS

All investigations will be conducted through Conformity Assurance Bodies approved by the Green Electronics Council. The following Conformity Assurance Bodies may be involved in Investigations for this Verification Round:

- GEC
- Intertek
- ULE

#### VI. VERIFICATION ROUND PLAN APPROVAL

The Conformity Decision Panel approved the Level 0 portion of this Verification Round Plan by discussion and/or email on January 20, 2017. CA Staff approved the Level 1 portion of this Verification Plan on March 24, 2017.

# VII. SUMMARY OF PC-2017-02 PLANNED INVESTIGATIONS

Criterion	Verification Selection and Process	# Planned Investigations
4.1.5.1	<ul> <li>Optional – Elimination of intentionally added hexavalent chromium</li> <li>Level 1 investigation</li> <li>Product randomly chosen as this criterion has not been investigated recently.</li> </ul>	11
4.2.1.3	<ul> <li>Optional – Higher content of postconsumer recycled plastic</li> <li>Level 1 investigation</li> <li>Manufacturers with previous Non-Conformances claiming high levels of recycled content will be investigated.</li> </ul>	12
4.5.2.1	<ul> <li>Optional – Renewable energy accessory available</li> <li>Level 0 investigation, move to Level 1 in case of Inconclusive</li> <li>Product randomly chosen if this criterion is claimed by a Manufacturer with a previous Non-Conformance.</li> </ul>	6

Criterion	Verification Selection and Process	# Planned Investigations
4.5.2.2	Optional – Renewable energy accessory standard	1
	Level 1 investigation	
	<ul> <li>Product randomly chosen if this criterion is claimed by a</li> </ul>	
	Manufacturer with a previous Non-Conformance.	
4.6.1.2	Optional – Auditing of recycling vendors	1
	Level 1 investigation	
	Manufacturers will be chosen who have not yet or recently been	
	investigated for this criterion	
4.7.1.1	Required – Demonstration of corporate environmental policy	11
	consistent with ISO 14001	
	Level 1 investigation	
	<ul> <li>Product randomly chosen as this criterion has not been</li> </ul>	
	investigated recently.	
4.8.2.2	Optional – Packaging 90% recyclable and plastics labeled	13
	<ul> <li>Level 0 investigation, move to Level 1 in case of Inconclusive</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Product randomly chosen if this criterion is claimed by a</li> </ul>	
	Manufacturer with a previous Non-Conformance.	
	Total	55

Note: One criterion was changed between the time the Snapshot was taken and the start of the Verification Round. Therefore another criterion was chosen for investigation for the same Manufacturer.