EPEAT Program
Continuous Monitoring Outcomes Report

Servers
SV-2024-02
September 4, 2024

1.0 Background

EPEAT® is a comprehensive voluntary sustainability Type 1 ecolabel that helps purchasers identify sustainable technology products and services. Central to EPEAT are conformity assurance activities that meet the technical rigor and credibility needs of the institutional purchasers who rely upon EPEAT. The EPEAT Program ensures the ongoing conformance of EPEAT-registered products through an ongoing surveillance process known as Continuous Monitoring. Continuous Monitoring activities occur throughout the year and test the ability of Participating Manufacturers to prove conformance with EPEAT Criteria on an ongoing basis.

Some Continuous Monitoring activities require that Investigations be conducted in discrete timeframes called Rounds. The EPEAT Program develops an individual plan for each Continuous Monitoring Round, which specifies the EPEAT Criteria to be investigated, the method of investigation that GEC-approved Conformity Assurance Bodies (CABs) must use and the specific dates when the Investigation activities must be completed. The EPEAT Program also selects the Participating Manufacturers and EPEAT-registered products and assigns Investigations to CABs, which must fully participate in and are responsible for implementing Continuous Monitoring Round activities with their Participating Manufacturer clients. Participating Manufacturers are required to cooperate fully with their GEC-approved CAB during Round activities.

To maintain the level of transparency relied on by purchasers, the EPEAT Program publishes an Outcomes Report at the conclusion of each Round to summarize the activities conducted and to identify the products and Participating Manufacturers that received nonconformances and the actions taken to restore accuracy of the EPEAT Registry.

This document summarizes the activities and results of Continuous Monitoring Round SV-2024-02 conducted for the Servers category.

2.0 Overview of Continuous Monitoring Round SV-2024-02

2.1 Investigation Activities

As per the published Round Plan, Continuous Monitoring Round SV-2024-02 used Level 0 Investigations, which involve reviewing publicly available information to determine Participating Manufacturers' conformance with specific EPEAT Criteria. GEC-approved CABs had a discrete time period to locate and review publicly available information to determine conformance with EPEAT Criteria selected for investigation. CABs then made recommendations on conformity based solely on the publicly available evidence, and sent Investigation Reports to the EPEAT Program. The EPEAT Program made the final decisions on conformity for the investigations.

2.2 Criteria Investigated

Continuous Monitoring Round SV-2024-02 focused exclusively on criteria that can be evaluated using publicly available information. While the EPEAT Program generally tries to focus on a specific impact or issue area in selecting criteria for investigation, the focus in this Round was instead on criteria which have requirements to make information publicly available.

Participating Manufacturers received up to three investigations: two of the criteria selected for investigation were Required Criteria, and one was an Optional Criterion. As a result, all Participating Manufacturers received at least two investigations, and a third investigation was assigned if the manufacturer had selected the Optional Criterion. Products for investigation were selected randomly using a random number generator.

Table 1: Criteria Investigated in Round SV-2024-02

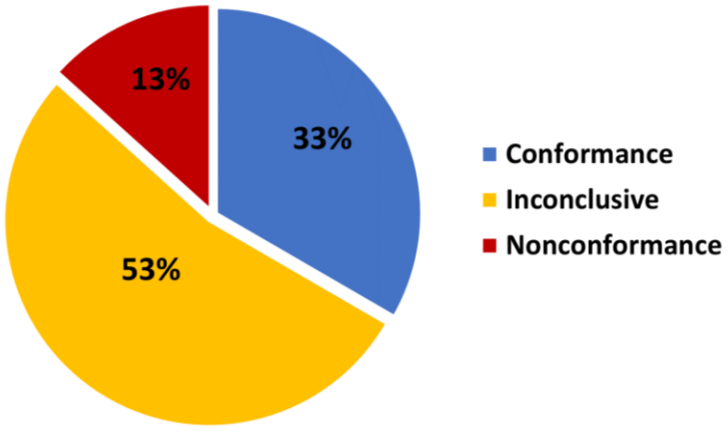
Criteria Number	Criterion Title
5.1.1	ENERGY STAR
10.1.1	Replacement components availability
12.5.3	Environmental Impact of Product Transportation (corporate)

3.0 Summary of Investigations and Final Decisions on Conformity for SV-2024-02

Highlights from this Continuous Monitoring Round are:

- **15** investigations completed
- **5** decisions of Conformance
- **8** decisions of Inconclusive
- **2** decisions of Nonconformance *Further details provided in Section 4*

Figure 1: Final Conformity Decisions for SV-2024-02
(shown as percentage of total investigations)



Note: For inconclusive findings, the EPEAT Program may require the CAB to investigate the same Criterion in a subsequent Level 1 Round to definitively determine conformance.

4.0 Further Details on Nonconformances for SV-2024-02

Table 2 below provides a further breakdown of the nonconformances by Criterion. All nonconformances must be categorized as either a minor error, nonconformance, or nonconformance due to CAB inaction or delay not attributable to the Participating Manufacturer.

Table 2: Breakdown of Nonconformances by Criterion for SV-2024-02

Criteria Number	Criterion Title	Total Nonconformances
5.1.1	ENERGY STAR	1
10.1.1	Replacement components availability	1

Both nonconformances in Continuous Monitoring Round SV-2024-02 were demonstrated nonconformances.

4.1 Minor Errors Versus Nonconformances

All nonconformances must be categorized as either a minor error, nonconformance, or nonconformance due to CAB inaction or delay not attributable to the Participating Manufacturer. Minor errors are non-critical or clerical in nature and do not materially affect the validity of conformance with EPEAT Criteria. All nonconformances that do not meet the definition of minor errors are categorized as nonconformances (unless they are due to CAB inaction or delay).

4.2 Minor Errors

For Level 0 Investigations, nonconformances may be categorized as minor errors for the following reasons:

- Minor human error in data entry (e.g., value cited for EPEAT-product registration is insignificantly above or below the actual value).
- Minor administrative errors (e.g., broken URLs, reports/certificates marginally outdated).

There were no minor errors in Continuous Monitoring Round SV-2024-02.

4.3 Nonconformances

All nonconformances in Continuous Monitoring Round IE-2024-02 were demonstrated nonconformances, which means that evidence definitively proved the criterion was not met.

5.0 Actions to Restore Conformance

Where the final conformity decision is nonconformance (including minor errors and those due to CAB inaction or delay), Participating Manufacturers must make corrections to restore the accuracy of the EPEAT Registry during the Corrective Action Phase. These activities may include providing additional evidence to demonstrate conformance with the criterion or unselecting the criteria in the EPEAT Registry. Where the product was found nonconformant and is no longer available in the marketplace, the product must be archived.

During the Corrective Action Phase, Participating Manufacturers must also develop Corrective Action Plans for other EPEAT-registered products that may be affected by the same underlying issue causing the nonconformance but were not the subject of investigation (called “similarly affected products”).

The following actions were taken to restore accuracy to the EPEAT Registry as a result of Continuous Monitoring Round SV-2024-02:

- **1** investigation Additional data provided by Participating Manufacturer, bringing the product into conformance with the Criterion
- **1** investigation Product archived by Participating Manufacturer

Table 3 in Section 7 identifies the Participating Manufacturers and products that received nonconformances in Continuous Monitoring Round SV-2024-02.

6.0 Key Findings

6.1 Energy Star Certification for Non-Energy Star Partner Countries

Energy Star certification in the U.S, Canada, Taiwan, and Switzerland can be used as a proxy to demonstrate conformance in non-Energy Star partner countries where certification is not available, and test data is required to demonstrate conformance to EPEAT.

6.2 Reminder to Archive Products that No Longer Meet Energy Star

Participating Manufacturers are reminded to archive products that do not meet the current version of Energy Star.

6.3 Criterion 10.1.1 – Replacement Components Availability - Registry Disclosure

Participating Manufacturers are reminded to ensure their Registry disclosure of the URL for 10.1.1 is current.

7.0 Identification of Nonconformances and Corrections Made by Participating Manufacturers

In the interest of transparency, the EPEAT Program identifies the Participating Manufacturers and products that received nonconformances and the actions taken to restore accuracy of the EPEAT Registry. Minor errors are generally clerical in nature and do not materially affect the validity of products in the EPEAT Registry. As such, these are not identified in the table below.

Table 3: Summary of Nonconformances and Corrections Made by Participating Manufacturers

Participating Manufacturer	Product	Product Type	Country	Criterion Number	Criterion Title	Required or Optional	Underlying Reason for Nonconformance	Corrective Action Taken
Ace Computers	PWB421	Blade Server	United States	5.1.1	ENERGY STAR	Required	Demonstrated Nonconformance	Manufacturer archived the product
Lenovo	Lenovo ThinkSystem ST650 V3	Pedestal Server	United States	10.1.1	Replacement components availability	Required	Demonstrated Nonconformance	Manufacturer provided evidence demonstrating conformance

Document Control and Change History						
Issue	***Revision***	***Owner***	***Approver***	***Description***	***Approval Date***	***Effective Date***
1	*0*	*Senior Manager, Ecolabels and Resources*	*Vice President, Ecolabels and Manufacturer Resources*	*Initial release*	*18 Apr 23*	*19 Apr 23*