

EPEAT Program

Continuous Monitoring Round Plan



Mobile Phones
MP-2024-01
December 15, 2023

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.

This document contains the individual plan for Continuous Monitoring Round MP-2024-01.

Continuous Monitoring Round MP-2024-01 Investigation Activities

Continuous Monitoring Round MP-2024-01 will use laboratory evaluation of products to determine the conformance of products with specific EPEAT Criteria. GEC-approved CABs obtain the products, as identified by the EPEAT Program, from the open market without involvement of the Participating Manufacturers, where possible, and send them for laboratory evaluation. The laboratories evaluate the products against the specified Criteria and produce reports summarizing the activities conducted and the results. GEC-approved CABs then review the reports, make recommendations on conformity and send the reports to the EPEAT Program, which makes the final decisions on conformity.

Continuous Monitoring Round MP-2024-01 Criteria and Product Selection

Continuous Monitoring Round MP-2024-01 will focus on sustainable use of resources. The unsustainable use of resources has triggered raw material scarcities, contributed to climate change, and caused widespread environmental degradation with implications for and negative impacts on human health and our environment. Globally, electronic waste is the fastest growing waste stream. The United Nations attributes this growth in e-waste to technological and product proliferation, along with shorter lifecycles and fewer repair options.

Sustainable use of resources to enable a circular economy is a priority for government policy, institutional purchasers, and manufacturers worldwide. A circular economy is paramount for the electronics industry to

become more sustainable and resilient. Circularity seeks to keep products in use for as long as possible, emphasizing durability, repairability, reuse, and the importance of recycling.

To this end, criteria which focus on circularity and sustainable use of resources were selected for investigation in this Round. When products or components fail, the ability to repair and refurbish the product is essential to keeping it in service, and the product and packaging design should facilitate reuse and recycling.

Products are selected randomly using a random number generator from a list of Participating Manufacturers. Each product is investigated for the criteria identified in the table below, however if a product has not selected a criterion, that criterion is not investigated.

Overview of Criteria and Products Selected	
Product Category	Mobile Phones
Number of Products Selected	1
Criteria Selected	11.3.1—Battery removability/replacement by qualified repair service providers or authorized repair providers
	11.3.3—Battery removability/replacement without use of tools
	11.4.1—Ease of disassembling mobile phone
	12.1.1—Use of recyclable fiber-based packaging materials
	12.2.1—Separability and labeling of plastics in packaging
	12.9.1—Improve packaging efficiency

Continuous Monitoring Round MP-2024-01 Schedule

Phase of Round	Date
Preparation Phase	
CABs notified of Round schedule and activities by EPEAT	December 15, 2023
CABs receive Round assignments and materials from EPEAT	December 15, 2023
Week of Round Training for CABs	Week of January 8, 2024
Investigation Phase (CABs performing investigations)	
Investigative period begins	January 15, 2024
Investigative period ends	June 13, 2024
Deadline for CAB submission of Investigation Reports and laboratory reports to EPEAT	June 27, 2024
Deliberation Phase (EPEAT making conformity decisions)	
Deliberation period begins	June 28, 2024
CABs receive Investigation Reports with final conformity decisions from EPEAT	August 12, 2024
Corrective Action Phase (for nonconformances, Participating Manufacturers restoring accuracy of EPEAT Registry)	
Corrective action period begins	August 19, 2024
Corrective action period ends	September 18, 2024
Deadline for CAB submission of corrective action reports to EPEAT	October 2, 2024
CABs receive final Investigation Reports with correction decisions from EPEAT	October 16, 2024
Reporting Phase	
Outcomes Report published	October 30, 2024

Process Details – Continuous Monitoring Using Laboratory Evaluation

Continuous Monitoring Rounds that use laboratory evaluation of products are conducted in accordance with EPEAT Policy Manual (P65) and EPEAT Conformity Assurance Implementation Requirements (also called EPEAT Requirements of CABs and Conformity Assurance Procedures) (P66) in effect at the time of the Round.

- The EPEAT Program downloads a list of all active EPEAT-registered products, selects products from the list for investigation and assigns EPEAT Criteria to the products, as per the Round Plan.
- GEC-approved CABs receive the list of products and EPEAT Criteria selected for their Participating Manufacturer clients but do not yet notify the Participating Manufacturers of the imminent investigations.
- The EPEAT Program publishes the Round Plan after all products have been obtained for testing.
- GEC-approved CABs obtain products from the open market in the country specified by EPEAT without involvement of the Participating Manufacturers, where possible¹, and send them for evaluation by an

¹ A CAB may be unable to obtain a product in the market (e.g., some products are not commercially available or only sold through contracts). If unable to do so within 30 days of the start of the Round, the CAB product notifies the EPEAT Program and obtains the product directly from the Participating Manufacturer.

ISO 17025 accredited laboratory. Only after obtaining the products do GEC-approved CABs notify the Participating Manufacturers that their products have been selected for investigation.

- Laboratories evaluate the products against the specified Criteria and produce laboratory reports summarizing the activities conducted and the results.
- GEC-approved CABs review the laboratory reports to ensure they are clear and complete and make recommendations on conformity based on the evidence in each report. CABs also prepare an Investigation Report for each product.
- GEC-approved CABs submit the Investigation Reports and laboratory reports to the EPEAT Program. At the same time, CABs forward these same Reports to the Participating Manufacturers.
- The EPEAT Program reviews the Investigation Reports and laboratory reports and makes the final decisions on conformity. The EPEAT Program then sends the Investigation Reports back to the GEC-approved CABs.
- GEC-approved CABs send the Investigation Reports with the final decision on conformity and the accompanying laboratory reports to the Participating Manufacturers.
- For final decisions of nonconformance, Participating Manufacturers must make corrections within 30 calendar days to restore the accuracy of the EPEAT Registry.
- The EPEAT Program publishes an Outcomes Report identifying the nonconforming products and Participating Manufacturers, as well as the actions taken to restore accuracy of the EPEAT Registry.

<i>Document Control and Change History</i>						
<i>Issue</i>	<i>Revision</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>Approver</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Approval Date</i>	<i>Effective Date</i>
1	0	<i>Sr Manager, Ecolabels and Resources</i>	<i>Director, EPEAT Program</i>	<i>Initial release</i>	<i>2020 Aug 20</i>	<i>2020 Aug 23</i>
1	1	<i>Senior Manager, Ecolabels and Resources</i>	<i>Senior Director, Ecolabels and Manufacturer Resources</i>	<i>Updates throughout to match revisions to P66. Level 2/3 now called Level 2. Addition of Preparation Phase to schedule table.</i>	<i>2021 Feb 15</i>	<i>2021 Feb 18</i>