

# EPEAT Program Monthly Transparency Report

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



Report Date: December 14, 2022

### 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 are 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 are available through either the [EPEAT Registry](#), an EPEAT Registry account under "Resources", or [upon request](#).

### 2.0 About this Report

GEC publishes this EPEAT Program Monthly Transparency Report to enable all EPEAT Program stakeholders to understand how the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact Participating Manufacturers and to communicate how the temporary COVID-related conformity assurance modifications are being used by Participating Manufacturers.

GEC-approved Conformity Assurance Bodies (CABs) are 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 aggregates the data from CABs to produce this Monthly Transparency Report, which provides insights regarding uptake of the temporary policy modifications.

This report reflects the use of COVID policy modifications by all active EPEAT Participating Manufacturers from November 1, 2022 to November 30, 2022. The next monthly report will be released in January 2023.

## November 2022 Use of COVID Policy Modifications

The EPEAT Program's temporary conformity assurance modifications are 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 November 1 through November 30, 2022. Table 1 provides a summary of the number of Participating Manufacturers currently using each of the temporary COVID policy modifications for this period.

| Table 1: Use of COVID Policy Modifications for November 2022  |  |
|---|--|
| COVID Modification  | Number of Participating Manufacturers Using Modification |
| Delay in onsite audit   | 0  |
| Force majeure attestation for components<br>(limited to a 6-month period of use for each component)   | 0  |
| Force majeure attestation for suppliers<br>(limited to a 6-month period of use for each supplier)   | 0  |
| TV product meets ENERGY STAR for Televisions Version 7.0<br>(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.