

## Wall Protection – Environmental Considerations for the RFP/RFI Process

Wall protection includes panels, corner guards, crash rails, and other materials to protect walls and doors from damage. The questions below cover key environmental considerations for products in this category. This category would also provide opportunities for health care facilities to earn USGBC’s LEED credits for sustainably built environments (relevant criteria indicated in rationale).

#	Question	Preferred Response	Definition	Rationale
Natural Resources	1. Does this product contain postconsumer recycled content (excluding steel)? (Yes/No) If yes, what percentage by weight?	Yes, or No if Yes to #2 or #3	<u>Postconsumer recycled content material</u> is a material or finished product that has served its intended use and has been diverted or recovered from waste destined for disposal, having completed its life as a consumer item. <sup>i</sup> Basically, it is the material collected from recycling programs. It is calculated as a percentage of total weight of the product. Steel is excluded from consideration as it commonly contains recycled content. This does not include preconsumer (sometimes referred to as postindustrial) recycled content which are recovered materials obtained from manufacturers. <sup>ii</sup>	Buying recycled-content products ensures that the materials collected in recycling programs will be used again in the manufacture of new products. According to EPA, recommending postconsumer recycled content levels for items will have the most positive impact on reducing the amount of solid waste requiring disposal. <sup>iii</sup> Purchasers should prefer products with the highest postconsumer recycled content that also meet other considerations. Use of postconsumer recycled content supports closing the loop in the recycling process, and, based on <a href="#">EPA’s ReCon Tool</a> , helps avoid generating greenhouse gas emissions.  Possible LEED credit: LEED for Healthcare MR Credit 3: Sustainably Sourced Materials and Products LEED for New Construction MR Credit 4: Recycled Content LEED for Existing Buildings: Operations and Maintenance MR Credit 3: Sustainable Purchasing— Facility Alterations and Additions
	2. Is this product made from FSC certified wood? (Yes/No)	Yes, No if other Yes to #1 or #3	If yes to Question #2, then Yes to Question #3. Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification ensures that products come from responsibly managed forests that provide environmental, social and economic benefits, <a href="https://us.fsc.org/certification.194.htm">https://us.fsc.org/certification.194.htm</a>	

	3.	Is this product made from a percentage of biobased materials? (Yes/No) If yes, what percentage	Yes, %	<p>If yes to Question #2, this question would also be Yes. However, there may be other biobased materials, such as bamboo, that may apply to this question only.</p> <p>Biobased materials are, as defined by USDA's 2002 Farm bill, commercial or industrial products (other than food or feed) that are composed in whole or in significant part, of biological products, renewable agricultural materials (including plant, animal and marine materials), or forestry materials.</p>	<p>Biobased materials may be preferable to petroleum based materials; however, whether or not the product is preferable depends on the content of the other materials in the product. USDA's BioPreferred Program has established minimum biobased content percentage levels for categories of products – if applicable, composite engineered panels are 55%. For more information, <a href="http://www.biopREFERRED.gov/Biobased_Products.aspx">http://www.biopREFERRED.gov/Biobased_Products.aspx</a></p>
Chemicals	4.	Is this product free of intentionally added polyvinyl chloride (PVC)? (Yes/No)	Yes	<p>Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) shall be defined as a plastic polymer used in a wide array of products. It is the <u>third</u> most widely produced plastic. Intentionally added means a substance is deliberately added in the production of the product.</p>	<p>Production and incineration of PVC releases dioxins and other harmful chemicals. Dioxins are widely distributed throughout the environment in low concentrations and are persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT). Dioxins are potent toxicants with many health impacts even at low exposure levels.</p>
	5.	Is this product free of intentionally added phthalates: DEHP, BBP, DnHP, DIDP, and DBP? (Yes/No) If no, please specify the phthalate(s)	Yes	<p>Phthalates are esters of phthalic acid mainly used as plasticizers (substances added to plastics to increase their flexibility, transparency, durability, and longevity). They are used primarily to soften polyvinyl chloride (PVC).</p> <p>Di-2-ethyl hexyl phthalate (DEHP) CAS 117-81-7, Benzylbutylphthalate (BBP) CAS 85-68-7, Di-n-hexyl phthalate (DnHP) CAS 84-75-3, Di-isodecyl phthalate (DIDP) CAS 68515-49-1 or 26761-40-0, Dibutyl phthalate (DBP) CAS 84-74-2</p>	<p>People can be exposed through the use of products containing these chemicals. In 2002, the FDA issued a <a href="#">Public Health Notification</a> for PVC devices containing DEHP. DEHP is also listed as a carcinogen on the Prop 65 list. The <a href="#">National Research Council</a> has also noted the importance of looking at cumulative exposure from multiple phthalates. These five phthalates are listed as reproductive toxicants by Prop 65.</p>
	6.	Is this product free of antimicrobial compounds intentionally added to the surface or other parts of the product to reduce the risk of infection transmission? This includes copper, silver, or any other antimicrobial. (Yes/No)	Yes	<p>Antimicrobials agents are substances that kill or slow the spread of microorganisms, such as bacteria, viruses and fungi.</p>	<p>There are growing concerns about the emergence of these chemicals in the environment and their potential negative human health and animal health. There is also concern they may contribute to the increasing prevalence of resistant microbes. See U.S. EPA. "Consumer Products Treated with Pesticides." Available at: <a href="http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/treatart.htm">http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/treatart.htm</a></p>
	7.	Is this product certified (or lab tested) to meet the VOC emissions limits of the California Special	Yes/Yes	<p>CA Section 01350 includes an environmental specification for low emitting building materials that has been widely accepted as standard practice for conducting VOC testing in small-</p>	<p>Products emitting volatile organic compounds (VOCs) can irritate the respiratory tract and contribute to respiratory ailments such as asthma. Some chemicals, such as formaldehyde, can also react with other chemicals to form</p>

		Environmental Requirements, Section 01350? (Yes/No) If yes, specify certification or testing lab		scale chambers. This standard addresses off-gassing of specific indoor air contaminants. This standard can be found at, <a href="http://standards.nsf.org/apps/group_public/download.php/19152/CDPH%2001350%20V1-1.pdf">http://standards.nsf.org/apps/group_public/download.php/19152/CDPH%2001350%20V1-1.pdf</a> . Third party certifiers that verify products meet this standard include GREENGUARD, Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) Indoor Advantage, BIFMA level, SMaRT, and Cradle to Cradle. This question is a baseline VOC question, whereas question #8 asks about meeting a stronger VOC emissions level. Verification of emissions levels is encouraged.	pollutants such as ground level ozone and smog. Formaldehyde is a common indoor air contaminant because of its use in furniture, cabinets, countertops, insulation, wallpaper, paints, and paneling. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified formaldehyde as a human carcinogen in 2006. More recently, the National Toxicology Program, an interagency program of the Department of Health and Human Services, named formaldehyde as a known human carcinogen in its 12th Report on Carcinogens (NTP 2011).  Possible LEED credits: LEED for Healthcare IEQ Credit 4.1: Low-Emitting Materials LEED for New Construction IEQ Credit 4.4: Low-Emitting Materials, Composite Wood and Agrifiber Products LEED for Existing Buildings: Operations and Maintenance MR Credit 3: Sustainable Purchasing— Facility Alterations and Additions
8.		Is this product certified (or lab tested) to meet VOC emissions criteria from CA 01350 (using CDPH/EHLB/M-55 Standard Method 1.1) with the new 2012 formaldehyde standard limit? (Yes/No) If yes, specify certification or test lab	Yes, specify certification	<b>This is a stronger VOC emissions requirement than the question #7 above to address new 2012 limits for formaldehyde.</b> Formaldehyde, a VOC, is used in glues, foams, textiles and pressed wood adhesives used in furniture. CA Section 01350 includes an environmental specification for low emitting building materials that has been widely accepted as standard practice for conducting VOC testing in small-scale chambers. This standard addresses off-gassing of specific indoor air contaminants. Strengthened formaldehyde limits would included in 2012 standard to a maximum of 9 µg m-3. Products certified to meet this new formaldehyde limit include GREENGUARD Gold, Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) Indoor Advantage Gold or Cradle to Cradle Gold/Platinum.	Products emitting volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are released into the air and can irritate the respiratory tract and contribute to respiratory ailments such as asthma. Some chemicals, such as formaldehyde, can also react with other chemicals to form pollutants such as ground level ozone and smog. Formaldehyde is a common indoor air contaminant because of its use in furniture, cabinets, countertops, insulation, wallpaper, paints, and paneling. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified formaldehyde as a human carcinogen in 2006. More recently, the National Toxicology Program, an interagency program of the Department of Health and Human Services, named formaldehyde as a known human carcinogen in its 12th Report on Carcinogens (NTP 2011).  Possible LEED credits: LEED for Healthcare IEQ Credit 4.1: Low-Emitting Materials LEED for New Construction IEQ Credit 4.4: Low-Emitting Materials, Composite Wood and Agrifiber Products LEED for Existing Buildings: Operations and Maintenance MR Credit 3: Sustainable Purchasing— Facility Alterations and Additions

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<sup>i</sup> Glossary, Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserva/tools/cpg/glossary.htm> viewed September 2011

<sup>ii</sup> Reusable Vocabulary, U.S. EPA, <http://www.epa.gov/osw/wyacd/catbook/you.htm> viewed September, 2011

<sup>iii</sup> Background Document for the Final Comprehensive Procurement Guideline (CPG) III and Final Recovered Materials Advisory Notice (RMAN) III, U.S. EPA, September 1999, EPA530-R-00-002