

BASF Wall Systems offers Simple yet Effective Method for Facilitating LEED Project Documentation

Many BASF Wall Systems products contribute to the United States Green Building Council's (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification program. In particular, our products may contribute to two of the Materials and Resources (MR) credits: MR Credit 4 (Recycled Content) and MR Credit 5 (Regional Materials).

With construction of sustainable buildings becoming more common, we are receiving requests for LEED submittal documentation more frequently. To help your customers, we have created a process that provides simple, effective, accurate and timely LEED documents customized to each project's unique location and the materials usage.

The tie-in with location is crucial to determining the validity of materials claimed under MR Credit 5 (Regional Materials). Regional Materials credit is provided for products "extracted, harvested or recovered as well as manufactured within 500-miles of the project site." If only some product ingredients meet all these criteria, then partial credit is awarded. For example, polymers (key ingredients in finishes and many base coats) are derived from crude oil, which is a globally sourced commodity that does not qualify for Regional Material credit. A product that contains polymer and aggregate (sand) may still qualify for partial Regional Material credit **if** the aggregate is extracted **and** the product is manufactured less than 500-miles from the project site.

To cite an example, a project in Tallahassee, FL using a BASF Wall Systems finish manufactured in Acworth, GA may qualify for a different level of credit than a project in Columbia, SC. Although both projects use the same finish sourced from the same manufacturing site, if one location is within 500 miles of the aggregate source and the other is outside that radius, different levels of credit would apply.

For the past two months, we have tested this process with customers and they prefer it over other manufacturers' approaches to LEED documentation. Our process prepares a concise document that satisfies the USGBC requirements. This affords the due diligence your customers and the USGBC require. A customer who is preparing LEED paperwork can be sure that the information contained in our letter is accurate, which is reassuring because the

new LEED 2009 program includes a provision whereby a project's LEED certification can be revoked if false information is provided. A sample of a typical LEED letter is attached.

The process is simple. To request LEED documentation for a specific project, either you or your customer can contact Theresa DeFluiter at 904-996-6321 or theresa.defluiter@basf.com. When requesting a LEED letter for documentation, we need the following information:

- Project name
- Project address (include the zip code; it provides the best means for confirming whether a project is within the radius needed to qualify for "regional materials")
- Materials used (be specific; e.g., Stuccoprime, Acrotex S10 Finish, BASF StuccoBase Concentrate or BASF StuccoBase Premix, Acro90 Base, Acrostop T, etc.)
- The name, address and e-mail address of the person to whom the letter should be sent.

We have also added this information into the sustainability section of the website. If you have questions related to LEED, please contact Theresa DeFluiter or Richard Martens, LEED AP (904-996-6101; richard.martens@basf.com.)

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