

**Amy Curtis**

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**From:** Greg Caruso [gcaruso@clp-inc.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 26, 2010 8:20 AM  
**To:** acurtis@clp-inc.com  
**Subject:** FW: LEED v3 Credit 4.1 and 4.4

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**From:** Merritt Kline [mailto:merritt.kline@apawood.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 13, 2010 5:04 PM  
**To:** gcaruso@clp-inc.com  
**Subject:** RE: LEED v3 Credit 4.1 and 4.4

Greg,

The following is in response to your inquiry regarding applicability of LEED v3 Credits 4.1 and 4.4 to APA wood structural panel products.

In our opinion Neither of these LEED points are applicable to APA wood structural panel (WSP) products. However, some LEED professionals may have claimed the 4.4 point for structural products like WSP. APA member panel producers could provide a letter stating that their products are made with moisture resistant adhesives that meet ASTM D2559 or U.S. PS 2 Exposure 1 ratings and not urea formaldehyde resins. APA Form J330 provides additional information. However, we do not believe it is appropriate to state direct conformance to the LEED 4.4 or 4.1 provisions because they do not apply.

Relevant excerpts from LEED NC v3:

Item 4.1 (Adhesives and sealants):

Intent

To reduce the quantity of indoor air contaminants that are odorous, irritating and/or harmful to the comfort and well-being of installers and occupants.

Requirements

All adhesives and sealants used on the interior of the building (i.e., inside of the weatherproofing system and applied on-site) must comply with the following requirements as applicable to the project scope

1: Adhesives, Sealants and Sealant Primers must comply with South Coast Air Quality Management District

(SCAQMD) Rule #1168. Volatile organic compound (VOC) limits listed in the table below correspond to an effective date of July 1, 2005 and rule amendment date of January 7, 2005.

APA interpretation: This does not apply to APA products. It would apply to adhesives used to adhere WSP to joists, or other onsite adhesives and sealants, but is not controllable by WSP producers.

Item 4.4 (low emitting products): Wood and Agrifiber Products

Intent

To reduce the quantity of indoor air contaminants that are odorous, irritating and/or harmful to the comfort and well-being of installers and occupants.

Requirements

Composite wood and agrifiber products used on the interior of the building (i.e., inside the weatherproofing system) must contain no added urea-formaldehyde resins. Laminating adhesives used to fabricate on-site and shop-applied composite wood and agrifiber assemblies must not contain added urea-formaldehyde resins.

Composite wood and agrifiber products are defined as particleboard, medium density fiberboard (MDF),

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plywood, wheatboard, strawboard, panel substrates and door cores. Materials considered fixtures, furniture and equipment (FF&E) are not considered base building elements and are not included.

APA interpretation: The definition of "wood composites" appears to be for nonstructural wood products that have traditionally used urea-formaldehyde resins (note the inclusion of "Plywood" is likely intended for decorative plywood). Structural wood products do not meet this definition and therefore the point should not be applied to structural wood products. I believe that some LEED projects have claimed this point for OSB and perhaps other structural wood products based on a broader interpretation of "wood composites". But in our opinion structural wood products are outside the scope of being eligible for this point.

Regards,  
Merritt Kline  
*Product Support Specialist*  
*Wood Products Support Help Desk*

**APA**

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