



To: Our Valued Customers, Architects, Specifiers, and Designers  
From: Sponge Cushion  
Date: May 20, 2009  
Re: Sponge Cushion LEED™ Certification Fact Sheet

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**Please be advised that all SCI carpet cushions qualify for LEED™ points under the regulations for LEED™- NC and Major Renovations; as established by the US Green Building Council.**

**FACTS:**

We have prepared this fact sheet in response to inquiries regarding Sponge Cushion Premium Rubber Cushion as they pertain to the US Green Building Councils LEED™ certification program. This information sheet is designed to provide information regarding our products as well as to serve as required documentation in the event you are filing an application with the USGBC for LEED™ Certification.

Sponge Cushion premium sponge rubber carpet cushion meets the following LEED™ standards based on the current (2009) LEED™ -NC and Major Renovations guidelines.

**LEED™-NC and Major Renovations Certification Statement:**

- 1. All Sponge-Cushion products qualify for LEED points under the USGBC standard for Low Emitting Materials. Our products meet the CRI Green Label Standard established under section IEQ-4.3**
- 2. Upon take up, all SCI Cushions are recyclable and qualify for points under section MR-2**
- 3. All SCI cushion products qualify for points as containing not less than of 20%, by weight, of pre-consumer recyclables meeting the qualifications set forth in section MR-4.**
- 4. All SCI cushions are manufactured in Morris IL., 60450. Any use of Sponge Cushion products that originate within a 500 mile radius of this manufacturing location will qualify for LEED™ points based on the Regional Material rules, section MR-5.**

This information is provided as guidance and it is recommended that you check the most updated information on the USGBC web site: <http://www.usgbc.org/>.

Attachments: LEED Regulation pages, 2009 Version

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## MR Credit 2: Construction Waste Management

### 1–2 Points

#### Intent

To divert construction and demolition debris from disposal in landfills and incineration facilities. Redirect recyclable recovered resources back to the manufacturing process and reusable materials to appropriate sites.

#### Requirements

Recycle and/or salvage nonhazardous construction and demolition debris. Develop and implement a construction waste management plan that, at a minimum, identifies the materials to be diverted from disposal and whether the materials will be sorted on-site or comingled. Excavated soil and land-clearing debris do not contribute to this credit. Calculations can be done by weight or volume, but must be consistent throughout. The minimum percentage debris to be recycled or salvaged for each point threshold is as follows:

Recycled or Salvaged	Points
50%	1
75%	2

#### Potential Technologies & Strategies

Establish goals for diversion from disposal in landfills and incineration facilities and adopt a construction waste management plan to achieve these goals. Consider recycling cardboard, metal, brick, mineral fiber panel, concrete, plastic, clean wood, glass, gypsum wallboard, carpet and insulation. Construction debris processed into a recycled content commodity that has an open market value (e.g., wood derived fuel [WDF], alternative daily cover material, etc.) may be applied to the construction waste calculation. Designate a specific area(s) on the construction site for segregated or comingled collection of recyclable materials, and track recycling efforts throughout the construction process. Identify construction haulers and recyclers to handle the designated materials. Note that diversion may include donation of materials to charitable organizations and salvage of materials on-site.

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## IEQ Credit 4.3: Low-Emitting Materials—Flooring Systems

### 1 Point

#### 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

##### OPTION 1

All flooring must comply with the following as applicable to the project scope:

- All carpet installed in the building interior must meet the testing and product requirements of the Carpet and Rug Institute Green Label Plus<sup>1</sup> program.
- All carpet cushion installed in the building interior must meet the requirements of the Carpet and Rug Institute Green Label program.
- All carpet adhesive must meet the requirements of IEQ Credit 4.1: Adhesives and Sealants, which includes a volatile organic compound (VOC) limit of 50 g/L.
- All hard surface flooring must be certified as compliant with the FloorScore<sup>2</sup> standard (current as of the date of this rating system, or more stringent version) by an independent third-party. Flooring products covered by FloorScore include vinyl, linoleum, laminate flooring, wood flooring, ceramic flooring, rubber flooring and wall base.
- An alternative compliance path using FloorScore is acceptable for credit achievement: 100% of the non-carpet finished flooring must be FloorScore-certified and must constitute at least 25% of the finished floor area. Examples of unfinished flooring include floors in mechanical rooms, electrical rooms and elevator service rooms.
- Concrete, wood, bamboo and cork floor finishes such as sealer, stain and finish must meet the requirements of South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rule 1113, Architectural Coatings, rules in effect on January 1, 2004.
- Tile setting adhesives and grout must meet South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rule 1168. VOC limits correspond to an effective date of July 1, 2005 and rule amendment date of January 7, 2005.

1 The Green Label Plus program for carpets and its associated VOC emission criteria in micrograms per square meter per hour, along with information on testing method and sample collection developed by the Carpet & Rug Institute (CRI) in coordination with California's Sustainable Building Task Force and the California Department of Public Health, are described in Section 9, Acceptable Emissions Testing for Carpet, DHS Standard Practice CA/DHS/EHLB/R-174, dated 07/15/04. This document is available at [http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/deodc/ehlb/iaq/VOCS/Section01350\\_7\\_15\\_2004\\_FINAL\\_PLUS\\_ADDENDUM-2004-01.pdf](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/deodc/ehlb/iaq/VOCS/Section01350_7_15_2004_FINAL_PLUS_ADDENDUM-2004-01.pdf) (also published as Section 01350 Section 9 [dated 2004] by the Collaborative for High Performance Schools [<http://www.chps.net>]).

2 FloorScore is a voluntary, independent certification program that tests and certifies hard surface flooring and associated products for compliance with criteria adopted in California for indoor air emissions of VOCs with potential health effects. The program uses a small-scale chamber test protocol and incorporates VOC emissions criteria, which are widely known as Section 1350, developed by the California Department of Health Services.

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OR

OPTION 2

All flooring elements installed in the building interior must meet the testing and product requirements of the California Department of Health Services Standard Practice for the Testing of Volatile Organic Emissions from Various Sources Using Small-Scale Environmental Chambers, including 2004 Addenda.

**Potential Technologies & Strategies**

Clearly specify requirements for product testing and/or certification in the construction documents. Select products that are either certified under the Green Label Plus program or for which testing has been done by qualified independent laboratories in accordance with the appropriate requirements.

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## MR Credit 4: Recycled Content

### 1–2 Points

#### Intent

To increase demand for building products that incorporate recycled content materials, thereby reducing impacts resulting from extraction and processing of virgin materials.

#### Requirements

Use materials with recycled content<sup>1</sup> such that the sum of postconsumer<sup>2</sup> recycled content plus 1/2 of the preconsumer<sup>3</sup> content constitutes at least 10% or 20%, based on cost, of the total value of the materials in the project. The minimum percentage materials recycled for each point threshold is as follows:

Recycled Content	Points
10%	1
20%	2

The recycled content value of a material assembly is determined by weight. The recycled fraction of the assembly is then multiplied by the cost of assembly to determine the recycled content value.

Mechanical, electrical and plumbing components and specialty items such as elevators cannot be included in this calculation. Include only materials permanently installed in the project. Furniture may be included if it is included consistently in MR Credit 3: Materials Reuse through MR Credit 7: Certified Wood.

#### Potential Technologies & Strategies

Establish a project goal for recycled content materials, and identify material suppliers that can achieve this goal. During construction, ensure that the specified recycled content materials are installed. Consider a range of environmental, economic and performance attributes when selecting products and materials.

<sup>1</sup> Recycled content is defined in accordance with the International Organization of Standards document, ISO 14021 — Environmental labels and declarations — Self-declared environmental claims (Type II environmental labeling).

<sup>2</sup> Postconsumer material is defined as waste material generated by households or by commercial, industrial and institutional facilities in their role as end-users of the product, which can no longer be used for its intended purpose.

<sup>3</sup> Preconsumer material is defined as material diverted from the waste stream during the manufacturing process. Reutilization of materials (i.e., rework, regrind or scrap generated in a process and capable of being reclaimed within the same process that generated it) is excluded.

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## MR Credit 5: Regional Materials

### 1–2 Points

#### Intent

To increase demand for building materials and products that are extracted and manufactured within the region, thereby supporting the use of indigenous resources and reducing the environmental impacts resulting from transportation.

#### Requirements

Use building materials or products that have been extracted, harvested or recovered, as well as manufactured, within 500 miles of the project site for a minimum of 10% or 20%, based on cost, of the total materials value. If only a fraction of a product or material is extracted, harvested, or recovered and manufactured locally, then only that percentage (by weight) can contribute to the regional value. The minimum percentage regional materials for each point threshold is as follows:

Regional Materials	Points
10%	1
20%	2

Mechanical, electrical and plumbing components and specialty items such as elevators and equipment must not be included in this calculation. Include only materials permanently installed in the project. Furniture may be included if it is included consistently in MR Credit 3: Materials Reuse through MR Credit 7: Certified Wood.

#### Potential Technologies & Strategies

Establish a project goal for locally sourced materials, and identify materials and material suppliers that can achieve this goal. During construction, ensure that the specified local materials are installed, and quantify the total percentage of local materials installed. Consider a range of environmental, economic and performance attributes when selecting products and materials.