

TECH UPDATE

LEED IEQ 4.4 – Off-gassing vs. Additional Content ***The Truth About “No Added Urea Formaldehyde”***

The USGBC’s LEED Rating System encompasses all facets of the construction process, including the indoor environment of the finished building. As ubiquitous as formaldehyde is, and because of its potential impact to building occupants, the USGBC has chosen to specifically ban the addition of urea-formaldehyde in certain products that find their way into the building interior.

The LEED Rating System’s IEQ point regarding urea formaldehyde reads “Composite wood and agrifiber products used on the interior of the building (defined as inside of the weather-proofing system) shall contain no added urea-formaldehyde resins. Laminating adhesives used to fabricate on-site and shop-applied composite wood and agrifiber assemblies shall contain no added urea-formaldehyde resins.” This is an inherently clear criteria, in that it expressly forbids the use of adhesives and resins that contain urea-formaldehyde.

Compare that to the supplier who states that their product “doesn’t off-gas” or “emits no urea-formaldehyde.” Lack of product emissions may meet the intent of protecting building occupants, but it doesn’t meet the specific “no added urea formaldehyde” criteria set out by the USGBC. “Emissions” and “addition” are distinctly different performance criteria, a fact that is explicitly defined in LEED IEQ 4.4.

When pursuing LEED certified projects, not knowing the difference between these two criteria may be the difference between supplying a product that helps achieve successful LEED certification and supplying a product that ultimately leads to the failure of LEED certification effort. Be sure to request the right product with “no added urea-formaldehyde”. And be sure to confirm that the product supplied does in fact meet the LEED criteria!

Marshfield DoorSystems offers various door construction models within our Environmental Class Doors® product offering that contribute to LEED IEQ 4.4:

EDPCUF	Environmental Particle Core – Urea Formaldehyde Free
EPCUF	Environmental Particle Core – Urea Formaldehyde Free (Certified Wood)
EEHDPCUF	Extra Heavy-Duty Environmental Particle Core – Urea Formaldehyde Free
ESCUF	Environmental Stave Core – Urea Formaldehyde Free
EDCLUF	Environmental Door Composite Lumber Core – Urea Formaldehyde Free
EDFMUF	Environmental Mineral Core – Urea Formaldehyde Free
CARTE BLANCHE UF FREE	Carte Blanche Door – Urea Formaldehyde Free
EDSRUF	Environmental Sound Rated – Urea Formaldehyde Free
EDURCLUF	Environmental Durable Composite Lumber – Urea Formaldehyde Free
EPMPUF	Environmental Perfect Match Particle Core – Urea Formaldehyde Free
EDSRUF	Environmental Sound Core – Urea Formaldehyde Free
EWSRUF	Environmental Wood Stile & Rail – Urea Formaldehyde Free

