Low-Emitting Materials

LEED v5 Requirements

Point Thresholds

Path 1 (Reqd.) - Achieve all three categories: Paints and Coatings, Flooring, and Ceilings - 1 pnt. Path 2 - Achieve Path 1, plus any two additional categories: Adhesives and Sealants, Walls, Insulation, and Composite Wood - 2 pnts. Path 3 - Achieve Path 1 plus the Furniture category - 2 pnts. Core & Shell - any 3 categories for 1 pnt. Commercial Interiors - up to 4 points; 2 categories per point.

The building interior is defined as everything inclusive of and inside the air barrier.



Emissions Evaluation

Building products must be tested and determined compliant in accordance with California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Standard Method **v1.2–2017** using the private office scenario. Products used in classrooms may be modeled using the schools or private office scenario.

Qualifying independent laboratory reports provided by the manufacturer may be used to demonstrate VOC emissions evaluation. These must include:

- TVOC results at 14 days;
- Test date (less than three years from date of purchase); and
- Name of the laboratory that performed the evaluation and documentation demonstrating the accreditation under ISO/IEC 17025 for the test method.

Material Categories

Path 1

Flooring

Requires a VOC emissions evaluation. Includes all types of hard and soft surface flooring finishes, raised flooring systems, entryway systems, area rugs, wood subflooring, underlayments, sandwich panels, and air barrier membranes and vapor barrier/vapor retarder membranes. Exclude poured concrete, composite wood subflooring, and wet-applied products applied on the floor. Look for CRI Green Label Plus - carpet, FloorScore - hard surface, NSF/ANSI 332 - resilient flooring, NSF/ANSI 140 - carpet, and others.

Threshold: >90%, by Cost or Surface Area

Interior Paints and Coatings

Requires a VOC emissions evaluation. Includes all interior paints and coatings wet-applied on-site. Exclude foamed-in-place and sprayed insulation. Look for SCS Indoor Advantage Gold, UL Greenguard Gold, MAS Certified Green, ClearChem, and others.

Threshold: >90%, by Cost, Volume, or Surface Area

Ceilings

Requires a VOC emissions evaluation. Includes all ceiling panels and ceiling tile, suspension grids, surface ceiling structures, suspended systems, and nonstructural sandwich panels. Exclude corrugated metal decking. Look for SCS Indoor Advantage Gold, UL Greenguard Gold, MAS Certified Green, ClearChem, and others.

Threshold: >90%, by Cost or Surface Area

Path 2

Adhesives and Sealants

Requires a VOC emissions evaluation. Includes all interior adhesives and sealants wet-applied on-site, including those used to install air or vapor barrier membranes and floor-setting materials. Look for SCS Indoor Advantage Gold, UL Greenguard Gold, MAS Certified Green, and others.

Threshold: >80% by Cost or Volume

Insulation

Requires a VOC emissions evaluation. Includes all thermal and acoustic boards, batts (faced and unfaced), rolls, blankets, sound attenuation fire blankets, and foamed-in-place, loose-fill, blown, and sprayed insulation. Excludes insulation installed outside an air barrier membrane. Look for SCS Indoor Advantage Gold, UL Greenguard Gold, MAS Certified Green, and others.

Threshold: >80% by Cost or Surface Area

Composite Wood

Requires Formaldehyde Emissions Evaluation. Includes all particleboard, medium-density fiberboard (both medium density and thin), hardwood plywood with veneer, composite or combination core, and wood structural panels or structural wood products.

Must be Certified as ultra-low-emitting formaldehyde (ULEF) under EPA Toxic Substances Control Act, TSCA Title VI, EPA TSCA Title VI, or CARB ATCM **OR** Certified as no added formaldehyde resins (NAF) under EPA TSCA Title VI or CARB ATCM.

Wood structural panels must be manufactured according to PS 1-09 or PS 2-10 and labeled bond classification Exposure 1 or Exterior. Structural wood product must be manufactured according to ASTM D 5456 (for structural composite lumber), ANSI A190.1 (for glued laminated timber), ASTM D 5055 (for I-joists), ANSI PRG 320 (for cross-laminated timber), or PS 20-15 (for finger-jointed lumber).

Threshold: >80% by Cost or Surface Area

Path 3

Furniture

Requires a Furniture Evaluation. Includes all permanently installed office furniture, cubicles/systems furniture, seating, desks, tables, filing/storage, specialty items, beds, case goods, casework, countertops, moveable/demountable partitions, bathroom/toilet partitions, shelving, lockers, retail fixtures, window treatments, and furnishing items purchased for the project. New furniture must be tested in accordance with ANSI/BIFMA Standard Method M7.1–2011 (R2021) and comply with specific sections of the ANSI/ BIFMA e3-2014 or e3-2024, Furniture Sustainability Standard. Statements of product compliance must include the exposure scenario(s).

Look for SCS Indoor Advantage Gold, UL Greenguard Gold, MAS certified green, and Intertek Clean Air Gold.

Threshold: >80% by Cost, Area or # of Units

Wall Panels

Requires a VOC emissions evaluation. Includes all finish wall treatments, finish carpentry, gypsum wallboard, wall base/skirting, interior and exterior doors, nonstructural wall framing, and nonstructural sandwich panels. Excludes countertops, bathroom accessories, door hardware, and curtain wall and storefront systems. Look for SCS Indoor Advantage Gold, UL Greenguard Gold, MAS Certified Green, and others.

Threshold: >80% by Cost or Surface Area

Inherently Non-emitting Sources

Products that are inherently non-emitting sources of VOCs (stone, ceramic, powder-coated metals, plated or anodized metal, glass, concrete, clay brick, and unfinished or untreated solid wood flooring) are considered fully compliant without any VOC emissions testing if they do not include additives, surface coatings, binders, or sealants.