



Distributor Alert

LEED Changes Requirements for MR-7 (FSC Certified Wood) Credit

On April 7, 2008 the USGBC issued a memorandum for all LEED Users which outlines their "Revised Requirements for Documenting the Use of FSC Certified Wood in LEED®" (a copy is attached). While this one page document may not have made it into the hands of all Architectural Wood Door Distributors, it has a significant impact on how distributors purchase, handle, and invoice wood products that are intended to contribute to LEED MR-7 (FSC) Credits.

The past practice allowed projects to obtain FSC credits on products sold to the contractor or subcontractor through "non-certified" distributors and would accept the wood door manufacturer's certification number/chain of custody (COC) as acceptable documentation. On April 7, 2008 this all changed.

Effective April 7, 2008 Vendors (including distributors) must include the following information:

- a. Each wood product must be identified on a line-by-line basis
- b. FSC products must be identified as such on a line-item basis
- c. The \$ value of each line item must be shown
- d. The "VENDOR'S" COC certificate number must be shown on any invoices that include FSC

The key word above is **VENDOR**. Within the attached addendum, please note the USGBC's definition of vendor---- "Vendors are defined as those companies that sell products to the project contractor or subcontractor". **If you are not a subcontractor for the project, you MUST be certified to offer FSC contributing credits under the LEED program. Distributors are now included in the Chain of Custody.** Please contact your nearest Mohawk factory representative for more details on this very important subject matter.

For more information on becoming a Certified FSC Vendor, the following companies are offered:

Scientific Certification Systems (SCS)
2200 Powell Street
Suite 725
Emeryville, CA 94608
Tel: 510-452-8000
Fax: 510-452-8001
Email: rhrubes@scscertified.com
Website: www.scscertified.com

SmartWood, Rainforest Alliance (SW)
Goodwin-Baker Building
65 Millet Street
Richmond, VT 05477
Tel: 802-434-5491
Fax: 802-434-3116
Email: info@ra.org
Website: www.smartwood.org



1800 Massachusetts Ave, NW
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20036
T: 202 828-7422
F: 202 828-5110
www.usgbc.org

MEMORANDUM

To: LEED Users
From: USGBC
Date: April 7, 2008
Subject: Revised Requirements for Documenting the Use of FSC Certified Wood in LEED

Distribution:

In an effort to align FSC rules and LEED requirements utilizing chain-of-custody (COC) documentation for the use of FSC certified wood, the MR TAG has approved the revised guiding language in LEED Rating Systems as follows:

All vendor invoices for permanently-installed wood products, both FSC certified and not, purchased by the project contractor and subcontractors must be compiled. Vendors are defined as those companies that sell products to the project contractor or subcontractors.

The cost of all wood products, both FSC certified and not, must be tallied on the appropriate LEED document (e.g., MRc7 template). Wood products that are not FSC certified and those that are identified on invoices as "FSC Pure" and "FSC Mixed Credit" should be valued at 100% of the product cost. Wood products identified as "FSC Mixed [NN]%" should be valued at the indicated percentage of their cost, e.g., a product identified as "FSC Mixed 75%," should be valued at 75% of the cost. (Wood products identified as "FSC Recycled" or "FSC Recycled Credit" do not count toward certified wood credits. They qualify instead as recycled content products).

Each vendor invoice must conform to the following requirements (except as noted in the Appendix under 'Exceptions'):

- a. Each wood product must be identified on a line-item basis;
- b. FSC products must be identified as such on a line-item basis;
- c. The \$ value of each line item must be shown;
- d. The vendor's COC certificate number must be shown on any invoice that includes FSC products.

Note that this means that each wood products vendor that invoices FSC certified products must be COC certified by an FSC accredited certifier.

APPENDIX

Exceptions: In some rare instances, it may not be practical for a vendor to invoice wood products on a line-item basis because the invoice would be dozens of pages long. In such cases, the invoice should indicate the aggregate value of wood products sold by the vendor. If the wood products are FSC certified:

- a. The vendor's COC number must be shown on the invoice;
- b. The invoice must be supplemented by a letter from the vendor stating that the products invoiced are FSC certified.
- c. The invoice or the letter must state whether the products are "FSC Pure," "FSC Mixed Credit," or "FSC Mixed [NN]%"

Errata to the applicable Rating Systems and Reference Guides, CIRs and templates are posted. Please contact Customer Service at leedinfo@usgbc.org with any questions.