

April 28, 2009

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the easiest way to determine which LEED credits Graham wood doors can contribute to for LEED certification?

Graham has a simple chart on our website and Earth Door™ sell sheet that shows what LEED credits each of our door constructions contribute toward.

Which wood door will give a LEED credit to the building?

Wood doors alone do not typically earn LEED credits. Wood doors can contribute toward LEED credits MR 4.1 and 4.2 (recycled content), MR 5.1 and 5.2 (regional materials), MR 6 (rapidly renewable materials), MR 7 (certified wood), and EQ 4.4 (low emitting materials). If wood doors are the only wood product on the building, it is possible for the wood doors alone to achieve credits MR 7 and EQ 4.4. The best door for your project will depend on the project's green strategy.

Why doesn't Graham have a form they fill out and provide for each LEED project order?

There is a wide variety of forms used to gather LEED information, among which Graham has not found a common format that would suit the varying needs of everyone looking for LEED contribution information. In order to provide information that is specific to Graham wood doors while allowing use of a particular form, Graham has created a list of the LEED credits our doors contribute toward and the associated percentages that apply to those credits. This list can be found on Graham's website and our Earth Door™ sell sheet. In addition, you can continue to find detailed LEED contribution information in our tech manual.

How do I know if the wood doors I ordered for my project contribute to LEED MR credits 5.1/5.2 (regional materials)?

If your project is within 500 miles of Mason City, Iowa and Mankato, Minnesota, and uses Graham agrifiber core doors, you can apply a percentage of the value for those doors to your LEED application for regional materials. Projects in the following states may be eligible: Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Do distributors need to get FSC certification?

Anyone that sells and invoices FSC-certified wood products to project contractors and subcontractors must have FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certification with Chain of Custody (CoC).

What does it mean to have "Chain of Custody" (CoC)?

Chain of Custody tracks and documents all FSC certified materials through the fabrication process, from a certified forest to the contractor's point of delivery.

How do I get FSC certification?

To obtain the most recent information on how to pursue FSC certification, please visit www.fsc.org. By clicking on "Be part of the solution", then "Become certified", and finally "5 steps towards FSC certification", you will find a concise explanation of the process.

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How can I tell if my Graham doors are FSC certified?

Graham FSC certified doors will have a label on the hinge or top side of the door. The invoice and bill of lading will also contain Graham's chain of custody number.

What is the difference between FSC and LEED?

FSC certification is achieved by following guidelines set forth by the Forest Stewardship Council with regard to responsible forest management. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a green building certification program established by the USGBC (U.S. Green Building Council). While these certification systems are independent of each other, FSC is the standard LEED currently references for MR credit 7 (certified wood).

How can the FSC particleboard core door contribute to both LEED credits MR 4.1/4.2 (recycled content) and MR 7 (certified wood)?

This is possible because FSC particleboard core is made from a mix of recycled content and FSC certified wood.

Why is the applicable percentage for LEED credits MR 4.1/4.2 (recycled content) different between the regular particleboard core and FSC particleboard core doors?

There is a different amount of recycled material used in the creation of these two core types, resulting in a different amount of recycled content.

How can Graham offer agrifiber and mineral core doors with FSC certification, since those cores are not wood-based?

In accordance with FSC and LEED guidelines, agrifiber and mineral cores are considered "neutral" and are removed from FSC consideration. This results in accurate FSC certification for the wood content of these door types. Graham is proud to offer both options with FSC certification, which allows for fire doors to contribute to a building's LEED MR credit 7 objective. Additionally, the agrifiber core is made using no wood at all... the ultimate in forest preservation.

Is it a requirement for LEED that the wood products used in a building are not allowed to contain any formaldehyde?

No, this cannot be a requirement since wood naturally gives off small amounts of formaldehyde. However, LEED EQ credit 4.4 requires that composite wood and agrifiber products on the interior of the building shall contain no added urea-formaldehyde resins.

How do I make sure the wood doors meet LEED EQ credit 4.4 (low emitting materials)?

Since urea-formaldehyde is in resins commonly used for the production of components used to make wood doors (i.e. particleboard core, MDF backers), special materials must be used to make wood doors that meet this credit requirement. If EQ credit 4.4 is an objective for your project, please let us know as part of your quote request and order. This will allow us to provide you with one of our many options in wood doors that contribute toward this credit.

Who registers a building for LEED certification?

The project administrator registers the building for LEED certification, often done by way of the architect, developer, or owner of the building.

What is the difference between LEED registered and LEED certified?

A LEED registered building signifies intent of the project to obtain LEED certification. A LEED certified building has been completed and meets the LEED criteria.

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