



LEED Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) Versus Floor Score

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Historically all primary VPI flooring products were FloorScore / CHPS certified until the **United States Green Building Council (USGBC)** LEED rating system issued their own low emitting **Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ)** credit:

IEQ Credit 4.3 Low-Emitting Materials.

In simplistic terms, this LEED credit duplicates the certification offered by FloorScore.

VPI uses Berkeley Analytical Laboratories to independently certify compliance with **IEQ Credit 4.3 Low-Emitting Materials** for all VPI core tile and wall base products.

Berkeley Analytical Laboratories have historically done all, or a substantial portion, of the VOC emission analysis for FloorScore certification. The only purpose of using the FloorScore mark was to affirm, via a regulatory third party, low VOC compliance.

Now that the **USGBC** has introduced its own standard in the form of **IEQ Credit 4.3 Low-Emitting Materials**, VPI has dropped FloorScore in preference of the LEED Rating System as our regulatory third body of choice. (The LEED Rating System is much more all encompassing & offers many more integrated & uniform standards beyond those just related to indoor air quality).

Specifically, adhering to the LEED Rating System is consistent with our commitment to the **USGBC** as our primary reference point regarding broader environmental compliance and associated “green matters” versus trying to haphazardly confirm to the growing multitude of third party organizations promoting their own set of narrowly focused certification standards.



References

Per the USGBC web site:

<http://www.usgbc.org/node/1732512?return=/credits/new-construction/v2009>

LEED users can use VPI's Berkeley Analytical test results to show that VPI flooring complies with:

Option 2: EQc4.3 of LEED BD+C New Construction

Specifically, **Option 2: EQc4.3 of LEED BD+C New Construction** states that 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. Mineral-based finish flooring products such as tile, masonry, terrazzo, and cut stone without integral organic based coatings and sealants and unfinished/untreated solid wood flooring qualify for credit without any IAQ testing requirements. However, associated site-applied adhesives, grouts, finishes and sealers must be compliant for a mineral-based or unfinished/untreated solid wood flooring system to qualify for credit.

Also see:

<http://www.leeduser.com/credit/NC-2009/IEQc4.3>

This communiqué clearly indicates that use of **Option 2** is commonplace in the industry:

Question to USGBC / LEED Expert: "My project would like to use vinyl flooring and the rep sent me a cutsheet that says, "Compliant with CHPS 01350 requirements for VOC emissions and indoor air quality." And she also sent me the certificate of compliance and that lists a reference standard of Cal CDPH 01350. Now, my question is, I understand CDPH spec 01350 is compliant, but do you think if i submitted the cutsheet as well it would be acceptable, even tho it only states CHPS?"

Answer from USGBC / LEED Expert:

"Yes, the cutsheets will work. Just make sure you put in the Option 2 table. Backup with that reference should be sufficient. Check both options and put the right things in the right tables".

Therefore, VPI can contribute to EQc4.3 credit by providing independent (Berkeley) test results confirming compliance with CDHS standards.

LEED Credits and Certification IEQ 13: 03-03-13

