

NAUF in High Pressure Decorative Laminate (HPL)

This document addresses questions related to the compliance of Wilsonart High Pressure Decorative Laminate (HPL) sheets to requirements of both LEED 2009 (v3) and LEED v4 “low emitting material” credits. The adoption of an emission based requirement by LEED v4 is a significant improvement to this credit that intends to reduce exposure from chemicals that can impact indoor air quality.

The LEED 2009 standard, and previous versions, required the use of No Added Urea Formaldehyde (NAUF) resin systems to earn credit. The LEED v4 requirement for composite wood panels is that they meet California Air Resources Board Ultra Low Emitting (CARB ULEF) or No Added Formaldehyde (NAF) resin requirements.

A common misunderstanding is that HPL is NOT a Composite Wood Panel, even though it does contain paper which is derived from wood.

Since HPL has low emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's) and is NOT a Composite Wood Panel it is exempt from both the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the EPA Composite Wood Rule. Therefore the issue of NAUF and NAF resins in HPL are not relevant.

Additional information on how HPL can have a role in LEED Indoor Air Quality credits is provided below. Additional information can be found in the in the Wilsonart Frequently Asked Questions Document at www.wilsonart.com/resources

LEED 2009 (v3):

- IEQ Credit 4.4 – Low Emitting Materials—Composite Wood and Agrifiber Products

- As stated in LEED 2009 (v3): “*Composite wood and agrifiber products are defined as particleboard, medium density fiberboard (MDF), plywood, wheatboard, strawboard, panel substrates and door cores. Materials considered fixtures, furniture and equipment (FF&E) are not considered base building elements and are not included.*”
- Additional information was provided in a LEED 2009 interpretation ruling (ID#10251) on IEQ 4.4 (www.usgbc.org/node/1732513?view=interpretations). The ruling states: “*Thermally Fused Melamine (TFM) laminates do not need to be included in this credit. Laminates are not covered in the scope of this credit*”. Recently, the TFM acronym was change to TFL (Thermally Fused Laminate.)
- HPL does not qualify for this credit in the format produced by Wilsonart.

LEED v4

- Indoor Air Quality – Low Emitting Materials

- HPL is exempt from CARB and the EPA Composite Wood Rule.
- HPL has UL Greenguard certifications as a Low Emitting Material are available on the Wilsonart Website.
- HPL may qualify for credits as an individual component in a system or part of finished product or furniture; depending on the LEED credit approach used.

If there are questions related to topics in this document or other questions about our products please contact a Wilsonart sales or customer service representative or call the Wilsonart Customer Service Hotline at 800-433-3222

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