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“Our new EPD’s contain the credible sustainability information needed by architects and designers supporting the choices of the products they select.”

**ANITA SNADER,
ARMSTRONG ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER**

ICC-ES Certifies and Publishes Environmental Product Declarations for Armstrong® Commercial Ceiling Systems

To help architects, interior designers, building owners, and other specifiers better understand the environmental impacts of its commercial ceiling products, Armstrong has produced Environmental Product Declarations (EPD’s) for nine of its products. Certified and published by the ICC Evaluation Service (ICC-ES) Environmental Programs, Armstrong is one of the first manufacturers of interior finishes to receive the EPD certification from ICC-ES.

The EPD’s cover the following product families: Ultima®, Ultima Ceiling-2-Ceiling™ (High Recycled Content), Optima®, Tierra™, Cirrus®, Mesa™, Dune™, Fine Fissured™ and Cortega®.

An EPD provides a standardized third-party verified declaration of a product or service’s environmental impact based on Life Cycle Assessments (LCA). Since the life cycle environmental impacts of a product are critical to its sustainability, these assessments and EPD’s are extremely useful when selecting interior finishes.

Having a program that certifies sustainability attributes of products is a natural extension and complement to other ICC-ES code compliant evaluation reports. Product EPDs that are verified as conforming to International Organization for Standards (ISO) 14025 requirements are issued an ICC-ES EPD mark. Manufacturers can display the mark in promotional materials providing they follow the procedures specified in their EPD agreement.

Transparency of the clear and straightforward information that is validated through third-party verification is a key benefit of EPD’s. They also contribute to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Pilot Credit 61 and expect to contribute to credits in LEED 2012 coming later this year.



Over its 150-year history, Armstrong has focused on environmental stewardship by using renewable resources, as well as post-consumer and post-industrial waste to the greatest extent possible. Given such a long-standing commitment to the environment, EPD's issued by ICC-ES are of particular significance.

"Armstrong has reduced our environmental footprint by creating innovative manufacturing processes and products," notes Anita Snader, Environmental Sustainability Manager. "Our new EPD's contain the credible sustainability information needed by architects and designers supporting the choices of the products they select."

The EPD's include detailed information about each product's materials and their origin, definition, product performance data, manufacturing process, product installation, life cycle, and end-of-life phase, as well as LCA results. It is recommended that LCA information be viewed along with product performance for a holistic view. The life cycle of this product line is 50 years, with recycling intended for its end-of-life phase.

"Sharing our product information in an EPD is important to Armstrong because it supports our commitment to minimizing environmental impacts," continued Ms. Snader, "as evidenced through our energy reduction from 2007-2011."

"Our EPD Program offers manufacturers like Armstrong the opportunity to provide easy and validated reference to their technical and environmental product attributes," said Rob Brooks, ICC-ES Director of Environmental Programs. "We are very proud to work with Armstrong overall, and particularly for the introduction of our EPD Program. Now a user has the capability to use these EPDs to make informed purchasing decisions by comparing product attributes including environmental impacts."

Armstrong is devoted to innovative manufacturing through a range of their sustainable building products without sacrificing quality. The ICC-ES EPD's will provide specifiers with detailed, yet straightforward, environmental information for ceiling systems, including the ceiling panel and the suspension system. Just as importantly, the EPDs demonstrate the company's continued commitment to manufacturing products that are more sustainable.

For more details about EPDs, including how to obtain a quote to develop an EPD and/or PCR for your products, contact ICC-ES Environmental Programs at environmental@icc-es.org or call 1-800-423-6587, ext. 7325. Visit www.icc-es.org to learn more about ICC-ES in general or to access reports on a multitude of products. Product Category Rules (PCRs), which define the product category and provide a detailed set of procedures for the LCA, can be accessed via www.icc-es.org/ep.

To help specifiers better understand the new EPD documentation, Armstrong will be offering a free online CEU titled "Life Cycle Assessments and Environmental Product Declarations: The Next Level of Transparency." Expected in late May 2012, completion of the course will qualify for one continuing education hour toward the USGBC Green Building Certification Institute's (GBCI) Credential maintenance program. The course will also be approved as a continuing education unit by the AIA. To access the new CEU, visit Armstrong.com/CEU.

For more information on Armstrong EPD's, visit www.armstrong.com/epd. Armstrong World Industries, Inc. is a global leader in the design and manufacture of floors, ceilings and cabinets. In 2011, Armstrong consolidated net sales totaled nearly \$2.9 billion. Based in Lancaster, PA, Armstrong operates 32 plants in eight countries and has approximately 9,100 employees worldwide.



** This article is intended to provide information on products for which ICC-ES Environmental Product Declarations have recently been published. It should not be construed as a product endorsement or a recommendation for its use.*