

ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA FOR DETERMINATION OF CERTIFIED WOOD AND CERTIFIED WOOD CONTENT IN PRODUCTS

EC109

Effective date: March 1, 2012

Previously approved October 1, 2008

PREFACE

ICC-ES issues Environmental Criteria (ECs) has been issued to provide interested parties with information on the requirements for obtaining an ICC-ES Verification of Attributes Report (VAR). An ICC-ES VAR provides independent verification of a manufacturer's environmental claims and product attributes. ECs address the production stage of the report subject, beginning with raw material acquisition through final manufacturing and packaging, and may also include information on projections for installation, use, reuse, and end-of-life, where specifically stated therein. This EC is effective as of the date referenced above and may be amended from time to time.

All VARs must comply with the applicable EC in effect on the date of issuance or reissuance of the report. Any technical changes to the EC will be marked within the EC. A solid vertical line (|) shall be placed in the margin within the EC to indicate a change, addition, or deletion from the previous edition. A deletion indicator (➔) shall be placed in the margin where wording has been deleted.

ICC-ES may consider alternate approaches to those contained in this EC, provided the applicant submits valid data demonstrating that the alternate approach is at least equivalent to the requirements set forth in this EC, subject to approval by ICC-ES staff. Notwithstanding that a product, material, or type or method of construction meets the requirements set forth in this EC, or that it can be demonstrated that valid alternate ECs are equivalent to the requirements in this document, ICC-ES retains the right to refuse to issue or renew a VAR, if the product, material, or type or method of construction is such that either unusual care with its installation or use must be exercised for satisfactory performance, or malfunctioning is apt to cause unreasonable property damage or personal injury or sickness relative to the benefits to be achieved by the use of the product, material, or type or method of construction.

The EC is limited to the scope statement in Section 1.2 and is not intended to construe a comprehensive environmental claim where considerations are given to other environmental trade-offs, impacts or full life cycle assessment.

NOTE: The Preface for ICC-ES environmental criteria was revised in February 2012 to reflect changes in policy.

Environmental criteria are developed for use solely by ICC-ES for purpose of issuing ICC-ES VARs.

ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA FOR DETERMINATION OF CERTIFIED WOOD AND CERTIFIED WOOD CONTENT IN PRODUCTS (EC109)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose: This document provides a procedure for determination that a wood-based product is either a *certified wood product* or contains *certified wood content* for recognition in an ICC-ES Sustainable Attributes Verification and Evaluation, Verification of Attributes Report (VAR). Acceptance of certification by recognized forest certification programs, as determined by ICC-ES, can be considered on a case-by-case basis.

- ➔ **1.2 Scope:** Reports issued under this Environmental Criteria (EC) address raw material acquisition and production stages. Life cycle assessment considerations are outside the scope of this EC. Report users are responsible for determining compliance with applicable codes, standards and environmental regulations.

1.3 Applicability: Wood certification shall be based on the criteria in the following:

1.3.1 ICC 700 Section 606.2 (**Note:** Provisions for qualification of certified wood and wood-based materials as bio-based materials is provided for in ICC 700 Section 606.1(a))

1.3.2 ASHRAE Standard 189.1 Section 9.4.1.3.1

1.3.3 ANSI/GBI 01-2010 Section 10.3.2.1

1.3.4 LEED Credit MR 7

1.3.5 LEED Homes Credit MR2.2

Note: CALGreen Section A5.405.2.1 contains mention of wood certification as noted in Appendix A of this criteria.

1.4 Reference Documents:

1.4.1 2010 California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen), California Building Standards Commission.

1.4.2 2008 National Green Building Standard™ (ICC 700), National Association of Homebuilders.

1.4.3 ANSI/ASHRAE/USGBC/IES Standard 189.1-2009 – Standard for the Design of High-Performance Buildings (Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings), American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc.

1.4.4 ANSI/GBI 01-2010 Green Building Assessment Protocol, Green Building Initiative, Inc.

1.4.5 LEED® 2009 for New Construction and Major Renovations, U. S. Green Building Council, Inc.

1.4.6 LEED® for Homes Rating System, Version 2008, U. S. Green Building Council, Inc.

1.4.7 LEED® 2009 for Schools New Construction and Major Renovations, U. S. Green Building Council, Inc.

1.4.8 LEED® 2009 for Core and Shell, U. S. Green Building Council, Inc.

1.4.9 LEED® 2009 for Commercial Interiors, U. S. Green Building Council, Inc.

1.5 Terms and Definitions:

1.5.1 Certified Wood Content: Certified wood content is tracked through a *chain of custody (CoC)* process either by physical separation or percentage-based

approaches. Acceptable certified wood content can come from sources certified by a forest management program.

1.5.2 Certified Wood Product or Certified Wood-based Product: A product manufactured from or containing raw material consisting of *certified wood content*, other acceptable sources or recycled content, and that has been certified as complying with a *forest certification program*.

1.5.3 Chain of Custody (CoC): A defined process whereby a manufacturer or producer may make a claim about how much of the wood fiber in their product consists of *certified wood content*, how much wood fiber content comes from acceptable sources, and how much of the wood fiber content comes from recycled content.

1.5.4 Forest Certification Program: A program operated by an independent organization that develops requirements for good forest management and, under which, certificates are issued to forest operations that comply with those requirements. The certification provides a means to verify that forests are well-managed and that certain wood and paper products come from responsibly managed forests, as defined within the particular standards of the certification program.

1.5.5 Nonacceptable Sources: Illegal or unauthorized harvesting as defined by a *forest certification program*.

1.5.6 Other Acceptable sources: Other acceptable sources of wood content are those that originate from forests that are not certified by a *forest certification program* but where the wood content is verified through a *CoC* program.

2.0 REQUIRED DATA

2.1 Product Description: Information on the product to be evaluated. The information shall include the product name, style, part or model number, physical description, and a production flowchart with respect to the amount and type of *certified wood content*, as well as the overall manufacturing process on the product, and *forest certification program* and/or *CoC* process. Additionally, all relevant specifications shall be provided for the product, the components and/or constituents used to manufacture the product, and the components used with the product in the final assembly. Specifications must be consistent with the product as described in the submitted test reports and quality documentation.

When agreed to by ICC-ES, in lieu of providing the actual specifications, the applicant may identify the controlled document that describes the product specifications, provided the document is identified by a revision level and/or date.

When the product specifications are not provided to ICC-ES except through reference to a controlled document as described in the preceding paragraph, the controlled document describing the product specifications shall be made available to the inspection agency for their review and their verification, during the qualifying inspection described in Section 3.3, that the product specifications are consistent with the product described in the original qualifying data.

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2.2 Packaging and Identification: A description of the packaging method and field identification of the product shall be submitted. Identification shall include the ICC-ES VAR number.

2.3 Certified Wood Documentation: Detailed records establishing compliance with one or more *forest certification programs* shall be submitted, as well as the following data based on the product type:

2.3.1 Structural Wood and Wood-based Products: The percentage of *certified wood content* either by volume or weight shall be indicated. The documentation shall be in sufficient detail to confirm that the engineered wood or other wood-based product was certified by a recognized *forest certification program*.

2.3.2 Solid Wood: Permanent labels or markings on solid wood, including dimensional lumber, shall indicate the program under which the wood is certified, forest of origin, and meaning of the label.

3.0 QUALITY CONTROL

3.1 Required Elements of the Quality System Documentation: Quality system documentation shall be submitted that meets the requirements below.

Exception: Where the VAR subject is also the subject of an ICC-ES evaluation report on compliance with the requirements of the *International Building Code*® and/or *International Residential Code*®, this documentation need not be submitted, provided that the applicant submits the applicable sections of the approved quality manual that govern the type, amount and source of *certified wood content*, as well as a signed affidavit attesting to the type, amount, wood content source and identification of the *forest certification program* used, and a statement that ICC-ES will be notified in writing if there are any changes in any of these items.

3.1.1 The quality system documentation shall be signed and dated by an authorized representative of the manufacturer.

3.1.2 The documentation shall clearly state the facility name of the manufacturing location, the street address and telephone number, and the name of the contact person at the facility.

3.1.3 There shall be provisions for the quality system documentation to be reviewed at least annually. A record of revisions shall be maintained.

3.1.4 The documentation shall indicate how the recognized product is to be identified in accordance with the requirements of the applicable *forest certification program*.

3.1.5 The documentation shall indicate how the requirements of the *forest certification program* are to be maintained and monitored.

3.2 The following declarations shall be provided to ICC-ES in a signed and dated affidavit from the report holder:

3.2.1 The ICC-ES name, mark, or report number will only be used for products that are in compliance with the VAR and the quality system documentation.

3.2.2 The report holder will promptly investigate and respond to ICC-ES when apprised by ICC-ES of complaints concerning product performance.

3.2.3 The report holder agrees to permit ICC-ES representatives to examine, at distribution points and the manufacturing plant, any product labeled as being in conformance with the VAR.

3.2.4 ICC-ES will be notified in writing if there is a significant change in the source and/or type of *certified wood content* and/or *forest certification program* from what was recognized upon issuance of the VAR.

3.3 At the time of re-examination of a VAR, evidence of continued compliance with the requirements of the *forest certification program* recognized in the VAR shall be submitted as a condition of reissuance of the report.

4.0 VAR RECOGNITION

4.1 The VAR shall identify the specific product, style or model for which data was submitted.

4.2 The VAR shall state the name of the *forest certification program* and the *certified wood content* (for products with *certified wood content*). The report shall also include a copy of the type of label or marking issued by the *forest certification program* for each manufacturing facility.

4.3 Where the VAR subject is regulated by the scope of the *International Building Code*® and/or *International Residential Code*®, and is the subject of a current ICC-ES evaluation report, the following statement shall be included:

“See ICC-ES evaluation report ESR-XXXX for compliance with IBC and/or IRC code requirements.”

4.4 Where the VAR subject is regulated by the scope of the *International Building Code*® and/or *International Residential Code*®, and is not the subject of a current ICC-ES evaluation report, the following statement shall be included:

“The evaluation of the VAR subject for compliance with the requirements of the IBC and/or IRC is outside the scope of this evaluation report and evidence of compliance must be submitted by the permit applicant to the Authority Having Jurisdiction for approval.”

4.5 Where the VAR subject is not regulated by the scope of the International Codes, the following statement shall be included:

“The VAR subject does not fall within the scope of the International Codes.” ■

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Appendix A

The following is a cross-reference of acceptable *forest certification programs* contained in the reference documents listed in Section 1.4 of this EC and is provided for informational purposes only.

REFERENCE DOCUMENT	CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS
CALGreen, Section A5.405.2.1	CALGreen states that certified wood is an important component of green building strategies and the California Building Standards Commission will continue to develop a standard through the next code cycle
ICC 700, Section 606.2(a) – (f)	(a) AFF American Tree Farm System® (b) Canadian Standards Association's Sustainable Forest Management System Standards (CSA Z809) (c) Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) (d) Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification Systems (PEFC) (e) Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Program (SFI) (f) Other product programs mutually recognized by PEFC
ASHRAE Standard 189.1, Section 9.4.1.3.1	AFF American Tree Farm System® Canadian Standards Association's Sustainable Forest Management System Standards (CSA Z809) Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification Systems (PEFC) Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Program (SFI)
ANSI/GBI 01-2010, Section 10.3.2.1	AFF American Tree Farm System® Canadian Standards Association's Sustainable Forest Management System Standards (CSA Z809) Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) – FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0 Other product programs recognized by Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification Systems (PEFC) Sustainable Forestry Initiative® Program (SFI)
LEED® 2009 for New Construction and Major Renovations, Credit MR7 LEED® for Homes Rating System, Version 2008, Credit MR2.2 LEED® 2009 for Schools New Construction and Major Renovations, Credit MR7 LEED® 2009 for Core and Shell, Credit MR6 LEED® 2009 for Commercial Interiors, Credit MR7	Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)