

# MechSE WELLness

## X08 Hazardous Material Reduction

**Intent: Reduce or eliminate exposure to hazardous heavy metals and phthalates found in building materials.**

Heavy metals (i.e. lead, mercury, cadmium, chromium IV and antimony) have a host of negative health outcomes. Exposure to one or more of these may lead to increased blood pressure, reduced intelligence quotient, learning, memory, and negative behavior. Exposure may also affect our central nervous system or compromise our lung and respiratory functions, or lead to various cancers.

**Impact: Restricting heavy metals across building materials reduces risk of exposure and pushes the market toward safer alternatives.**

### **What are the requirements to earn this credit?**

1. For all new doors, door hardware, ductwork, conduits, metal studs, mirrors/glass, roofing or flashing, brass drains, pumps, motors, or valves, and vinyl blinds or wall coverings, a minimum of 20% by cost contain less than 100 parts per million of added lead.
2. For all new furniture and finishes (i.e. textiles, finishes, and dyes), components that constitute 5% or more of the product will have: a) mercury less than 100 ppm, b) cadmium less than 100 ppm, antimony less than 100 ppm, and hexavalent chromium less than 100 ppm.
3. For all new fire alarms, meters, sensors, thermostats, and load break switches, the maximum concentration value meets: a) Lead less than 1000 ppm, b) mercury less than 100 ppm, c) cadmium less than 100 ppm, and d) hexavalent chromium less than 1000 ppm.
4. Where possible, the International Living Future 'Red List' will be implemented.

### **How is MechSE accomplishing these requirements?**

MechSE's policy is that any future department renovations and purchases will meet the above requirements. If we cannot meet them, we will do our very best to pursue and draft letters to manufacturers encouraging them to develop or choose safer alternatives.



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