

# MechSE WELLness

## X10 Volatile Compound Reduction

**Intent: Minimize the impact of hazardous VOCs, SVOCs, HFRs, formaldehyde, and phthalates on indoor air quality.**

Exposure to volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), halogenated fire retardants (HFRs), urea-formaldehyde and select phthalates can result health degradation and/or long-term illness. Such elements have carcinogenicity, reproductive and developmental defects, eye, nose, throat irritation, and asthma symptoms.

**Impact: Restriction of select, well-studied VOCs and SVOCs commonly used in building materials and products limits their presence in indoor air and dust, thereby helping to mitigate associated exposure and health hazards.**

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

1. 20% by cost (w/ goal of 100%) of newly installed furniture, upholstery, flooring, ceiling tiles, wall paints, window blinds, piping, electrical wiring, conduits, junction boxes, and insulation contain halogenated flame retardants (HFRs) at less than 100 ppm or the extent allowable by code.
2. 20% by cost (w/ goal of 100%) of newly installed composite wood products, laminating adhesives and resins, and thermal insulation contain urea-formaldehyde at less than 100 ppm or the extent allowable by code.
3. 20% by cost (w/ goal of 100%) of newly installed flooring, wall paints, window blinds, furniture and upholstery, plumbing pipes, and moisture barriers contain total phthalates at less than 100 ppm or the extent allowable by code. All newly installed fire alarms, meters, sensors, thermostats, and load break switches contain total phthalates at less than 1000 ppm or the extent allowable by code.

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

Newly installed furnishings, built-in furniture, interior finishes, and finish materials must be approved by the Facilities & Operations Office. Future purchasing for repair, renovation, or replacement of building materials and products will comply as noted. The Facilities & Operations Office will seek to maintain an accessible, digital library of available research, furniture, furnishings, building materials and vendors that facilitate policy compliance and occupant education. Web links to sites will be provided where possible.

