MechSE *WELL*ness

X11 Long-Term Emission Control

Intent: Minimize the impact of slow-emitting (VOCs) on indoor air quality by judiciously procuring materials with low-VOC emissions for the interior environment.

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) have a wide range of health effects, from nose, eye and throat irritation, headaches and nausea to liver, kidney and central nervous system damage. Some select VOCs and SVOCs are known or suspected carcinogens.

Impact: Improved occupant health. Restriction of source VOCs in building materials and products can limit their presence in indoor air and dust and help to mitigate exposure risks and health hazards.

What are the requirements to earn this credit?

1. New furniture and furnishings meet VOC emission thresholds set by:
    a. ANSI/BIFMA e3-2019 Furniture Sustainability Standard sections 7.6.1 or 7.6.2, tested in accordance with ANSI/BIFMA Standard Method M7.1-2011 or more recent version.
    b. California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Standard Method v.1.2-2017 or any more recent version.
    c. Greenguard Gold Certification.
2. Newly installed furniture and furnishings will meet VOC thresholds minimally at 50% compliance by cost, with the goal of 90%.
3. All newly installed flooring and thermal and acoustic insulation (excluding duct insulation) meets published VOC emission thresholds by California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Standard Method v.1.2-2017 or any more recent version.

How is MechSE accomplishing these requirements?

Requests to purchase and install any new furniture or furnishings must be approved by the Facilities & Operations Office before purchase, delivery or installation. The Facilities 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. Our goal is to use and promote use of International Living Future ‘Declared’ products that provide a list of components and their sustainability and hazard characteristics.

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