



SUSTAINABLE  
FORESTRY  
INITIATIVE

SFI-00001

# HOW TO COUNT YOUR CERTIFIED PRODUCTS FOR A LEED POINT



On April 5, 2016, the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) released a pilot Alternative Compliance Path (ACP) for wood and paper products in its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) 2009 and LEED v4 rating systems which enables all certified products to be eligible for LEED credit. Builders and architects can now use wood and paper products certified to the [Sustainable Forestry Initiative](#) (SFI), [American Tree Farm System](#) (ATFS), [Canadian Standards Association](#) (CSA) and [Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification](#) (PEFC) standards to achieve a point in the “certified wood” ACP under LEED 2009 and achieve a point in the “sourcing of raw materials” ACP under LEED v4.

**Label your products with the SFI logo to help make it easy for architects and builders to identify that the wood or paper is certified to the SFI standard to be eligible to earn a LEED point.**

## WHAT IS AN ACP?

An Alternative Compliance Path allows LEED projects to achieve an existing green building credit, using an alternative approach to what is specified in the existing rating tool.

An ACP pilot is used to test and work out any kinks with the new pathway. If the ACP pilot credit is adopted, it will become part of the LEED rating system.

In order to count towards a LEED point, the user must first know that:

- 100% of the forest products are from legal (non-controversial) sources, and
- 70% from responsible sources, and
- The remainder must be certified sources as evidenced by a chain of custody certification (CoC).

SFI Fiber Sourcing certification counts as legal and responsible, while forest products delivered through a CoC certification counts as legal, responsible and certified sources.

**For SFI Chain of Custody certificate holders, communicate that your wood or paper products can achieve a point in the “certified wood” credit under LEED 2009 and achieve a point in the “sourcing of raw materials” credit under LEED v4.**

The Alternative Compliance Path applies to all LEED v4 and LEED 2009 systems. This includes Building Design and Construction (BD+C), Interior Design and Construction (ID+C), Building Operations and Maintenance (O+M), Neighborhood Development (ND) and Homes (H) v4.

The Alternative Compliance Path categorizes the various forest certification standards based on the [ASTM D7612-10 \(2015\)](#) standard which is titled “Categorizing Wood and Wood-Based Products According to Their Fiber Sources.” ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) International is a globally recognized leader in the development and delivery of voluntary consensus standards.



They’ve published over 12,000 ASTM standards that are used around the world to improve product quality, enhance health and safety, strengthen market access and trade, and build consumer confidence.

The ASTM standard defines three sourcing categories that USGBC uses:

1. legal (non-controversial)
2. responsible sources
3. certified sources

Below is a chart that highlights the various categories and what counts towards the credit. It’s important to note that LEED v4 and LEED 2009 use different accounting methods which are explained in detail on pages 3, 4 and 5.

**For SFI Fiber Sourcing certificate holders, communicate that your wood or paper products count in both the legal and responsible sources categories.**

**USGBC RECOGNIZES ALL CERTIFICATION STANDARDS FOR LEED POINTS**

PROGRAM NAME	Legal (non-controversial) Compliant?	Responsible Sources Compliant?	Certified Sources Compliant? (CoC)
<b>Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)</b>			
• Forest Management (via SFI CoC certificate)	Yes	Yes	Yes
• SFI Fiber Sourcing certificate	Yes	Yes	No
<b>American Tree Farm System (ATFS)</b>			
• Forest Management (via SFI CoC certificate)	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Canadian Standards Association (CSA)</b>			
• Forest Management (via SFI CoC certificate)	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)</b>			
• Forest Management (via PEFC chain of custody certificate)	Yes	Yes	Yes
• PEFC Due Diligence System	Yes	No	No
<b>Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)</b>			
• Forest Management (via FSC chain of custody certificate)	Yes	Yes	Yes
• FSC Controlled Wood certificate	Yes	No	No

## LEED V4 USING BD+C AS AN EXAMPLE

USGBC released LEED v4 in the summer of 2013 and will eventually replace LEED 2009. LEED v4 takes a more holistic approach than the LEED 2009 rating tool and focuses on **all** building materials to get a better understanding of the effect those materials have on the environment. As such, USGBC revised the “certified wood” credit from the LEED 2009 version, and replaced it with a “sourcing of raw material” credit in LEED v4 that applies to **all** building materials. The purpose of the “sourcing of raw material” credit is to reward project teams for selecting products verified to have been extracted or sourced in a responsible manner.

In order to qualify for a point under the “sourcing of raw material” credit in LEED v4, a builder or architect must use **at least 25%** (based on cost) of permanently installed building materials that meet at least one of the responsible extraction criteria below, which can be satisfied with SFI CoC.

### Responsible Extraction (or sourcing) Criteria

- Extended producer responsibility (EPR) - Products purchased from a manufacturer that participates in an EPR program or is directly responsible for EPR. Extended producer responsibility uses financial incentives to encourage manufacturers to design environmentally friendly products by holding producers responsible for the costs of managing their products at end of life.
- Bio-based materials - Bio-based products must meet the [Sustainable Agriculture Network’s Sustainable Agriculture Standard](#). Bio-based raw materials must also be tested using [ASTM Test Method D6866](#) and be legally harvested.
- Reused materials and recycled content – “Reused” includes salvaged, refurbished, or reused products and recycled content is calculated as the sum of post-consumer recycled content plus one-half the pre-consumer recycled content.
- Wood products - Wood products sourced from “Certified” sources as defined by [ASTM D7612-10 \(2015\)](#) are deemed to satisfy the requirements of this credit.

For purposes of SFI recognition, a builder or architect can use SFI certified wood products under the “wood products” criteria to achieve a point under LEED v4. The builder or architect must first know that:

- 100% (with a de minimis amount) of all wood used on the project is from legal (non-controversial) sources, and
- 70% of all wood used on the project is from responsible sources. And once the above two criteria are satisfied then CoC certification can satisfy the final requirement that:
- At least 25% (based on cost) of all permanently installed building materials meet a responsible extraction criteria in LEED v4 rating tools.

To calculate an example, if the total value of all permanently installed building products (wood, concrete and steel) is \$10,000, the builder or architect must use at least \$2,500 (25% of the total value) worth of materials that meet one of the 4 responsible extraction criteria.

The next page shows a chart that offers an example of how this credit might be calculated.



**The ACP also applies to LEED for Existing Buildings: Operations & Maintenance - This means using SFI-certified furniture, wood and paper products can help you achieve points in the ongoing purchasing and renovations credits in LEED v4.**

**LEED V4 CREDIT CALCULATIONS**  
**CALCULATING IF THE WOOD PRODUCTS CAN COUNT TOWARDS THE SOURCING OF RAW MATERIAL CREDIT**  
**(EXAMPLE FOR COMPARISON PURPOSES)**

	PRODUCT TYPE	COST	SOURCING	LEGAL SOURCES (MUST BE 100%)	RESPONSIBLE SOURCES (MUST BE 70%)	CERTIFIED SOURCES (COC)
Product 1	Flooring	\$1,500	SFI forest management via SFI Chain of Custody	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Product 2	Case Work	\$900	SFI - fiber sourcing	\$900	\$900	\$ -
Product 3	Windows	\$25	ATFS forest management via SFI CoC or PEFC CoC	\$25	\$25	\$25
Product 4	Furniture, fixtures and equipment (FF&E)	\$250	CSA forest management via SFI CoC or PEFC CoC	\$250	\$250	\$250
Product 5	FF&E	\$100	PEFC forest management via PEFC CoC	\$100	\$100	\$100
Product 6	FF&E	\$100	PEFC - due diligence	\$100	\$ -	\$ -
Product 7	Doors	\$275	FSC forest management via FSC CoC	\$275	\$275	\$275
Product 8	Structural lumber	\$375	FSC - controlled wood	\$375	\$ -	\$ -
Product 9	FF&E	\$40	Not certified	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$3,565</b>		<b>\$3,525 (99%)</b>	<b>\$3,050 (86%)</b>	<b>\$2,150</b>

\*CoC = Chain of Custody

**VALUE OF ELIGIBLE "CERTIFIED" WOOD THAT CAN COUNT TOWARDS THE CREDIT**

**LEED V4 CREDIT CALCULATIONS**  
**CALCULATING THE SOURCING OF RAW MATERIAL CREDIT**  
**(EXAMPLE FOR COMPARISON PURPOSES)**

Total value of all permanently installed building products (wood, concrete and steel)	\$10,000
Value of non-wood products (concrete and steel) that meet the responsible extraction criteria	\$1,500
Value of eligible "certified" wood products that meet the responsible extraction criteria	\$2,150
Total value of all eligible products that meet the responsible extraction criteria	\$3,650
% value of all eligible products that meet the responsible extraction criteria vs total value of permanently installed building products.	36.5% (meets the 25% test)
Point Achieved under LEED v4 "Sourcing of Raw Material" credit	1

## LEED 2009 USING BD+C AS AN EXAMPLE

LEED 2009 is being phased out and being replaced by the newer LEED v4. However, builders or architects can still submit a project under LEED 2009, but they must register their project by October 31, 2016. If the project is registered on or before this date, the builder or architect has until June 30, 2021 to complete their project under LEED 2009.

LEED users must meet several criteria in order to qualify for a point under LEED 2009.

They must first know that:

- 100% (with a de minimis amount) of all wood used on the project is from legal (non-controversial) sources, and
- 70% of all wood used on the project is from responsible sources.

Once the above two criteria are satisfied then CoC certification can satisfy the final requirement that:

- At least 50% (based on cost) of wood-based materials are certified.

Below is a chart that offers an example of how this credit might be calculated.

LEED 2009 CREDIT CALCULATIONS (example for comparison purposes)						
	PRODUCT TYPE	COST	SOURCING	LEGAL SOURCES	RESPONSIBLE SOURCES	CERTIFIED SOURCES
Product 1	Flooring	\$1,500	SFI forest management via SFI Chain of Custody*	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Product 2	Case Work	\$900	SFI - fiber sourcing	\$900	\$900	\$ -
Product 3	Windows	\$25	ATFS forest management via SFI CoC or PEFC CoC	\$25	\$25	\$25
Product 4	Furniture, fixtures and equipment (FF&E)	\$250	CSA forest management via SFI CoC or PEFC CoC	\$250	\$250	\$250
Product 5	FF&E	\$100	PEFC forest management via PEFC CoC	\$100	\$100	\$100
Product 6	FF&E	\$100	PEFC - due diligence	\$100	\$ -	\$ -
Product 7	Doors	\$275	FSC forest management via FSC CoC	\$275	\$275	\$275
Product 8	Structural lumber	\$375	FSC - controlled wood	\$375	\$ -	\$ -
Product 9	FF&E	\$40	Not certified	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total		\$3,565		\$3,525 (99%)	\$3,050 (86%)	\$2,150 (60%)

\*CoC = Chain of Custody

**THIS NUMBER MUST BE AT LEAST 50% TO COUNT FOR THE LEED 2009 CREDIT.**

CREDITS ACHIEVED BREAKDOWN	
% Legal	99% (meets the 100% with de minimis test)
% Responsible	86% (meets the 70% test)
Total Value of Wood	\$3,565.00
Value of eligible "certified" wood for ACP	\$2,150.00
% value of "certified" wood	60% (meets the 50% test)
Point Achieved under LEED 2009	1

**The ACP also applies to LEED for Existing Buildings: Operations & Maintenance- This means using SFI-certified furniture, wood and paper products can help you achieve points in the sustainable purchasing credits in LEED 2009.**