

The Masonry Society

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From the Editor

You may not be aware that USGBC periodically publishes addenda to their LEED rating systems. The July 2012 addenda include a modification of Materials and Resources credit 5 on Regional Materials that should be of significant interest to building product manufacturers. A new calculation for transportation that distinguishes between methods of transport is provided. This is a significant change made without public comment, and will open up transoceanic shipping to "regional" classification. Check out the article below for more information. I've also included a link to an earlier addendum related to the low-emitting materials flooring credit (IEQ cr 4.3).

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NOTE: Inclusion in this newsletter is not an endorsement of the products and materials featured, nor have these products been evaluated by TMS or the editor. Furthermore, the views expressed in the articles featured are those of the article authors.

LEED

USGBC usually uses LEED addenda to clarify credit language, but the most recent addenda include at least one substantive change. Check out the links below for more information. I've also include a short article that provides a good comparison of the differences between LEED and Green Globes. ~Tina

Addenda to LEED Modifies the 500-mile Limit

The main feature of the July 2012 addenda release was the integration of International Alternative Compliance Paths into the LEED credit language.

While most of the changes involve recognition of non-U.S. standards, there are some broader changes such as scrapping of a single 500-mile limit for MRc5. In its place is a complex formula in which travel by sea, rail, or inland waterway counts less than miles traveled over land. [Click here](#) to learn more.

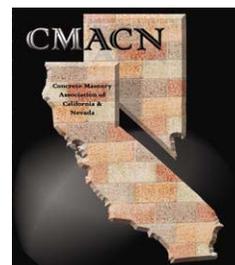
Mineral-Based Flooring Exempt From Testing

According to previously published LEED addenda, under [IEQc4.3: Low-Emitting Materials—Flooring Systems](#), mineral based finish flooring products such as tile, masonry, terrazzo, and cut stone qualify for the credit without IAQ testing, as long as they don't have integral organic-based coatings and sealants. This is good news for anyone who has

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been searching fruitlessly for good FloorScore-certified tile. However, associated site-applied adhesives, grouts, finishes and sealers must be compliant for a mineral-based or unfinished/untreated solid wood flooring system.

USGBC Announces Fifth LEED Public Comment Period

The USGBC plans an unprecedented fifth public comment period on what is now called LEED v4. The public comment period will run from October 2 to December 10, 2012. To follow the LEED v4 development, check out [this link](#).

USGBC Responds Positively to Coalition Opposing LEED

Various trade groups have banded together against LEED v.4 and formed the American High-Performance Buildings Coalition. The new group says LEED requirements are not based on science and wrongly ban some chemicals in building materials. It also wants the federal government to include Green Globes in its mandate for green building construction. "If this coalition is sincere in its interest to advance high-performance buildings over the status quo, we welcome them to the table and sincerely look forward to engaging together to make green buildings more valuable to Americans," said Roger Platt, senior vice president of global policy and law at USGBC, according to [this article](#).

5 Differences Between Green Globes, LEED

The Green Globes system and LEED standards are similar on what they choose to rate, but they apply the concepts differently, writes Vineela Kasi Reddy, LEED AP BD+C. Green Globes offers a simpler process for evaluation, but LEED is more widely accepted in building projects and is used in 22 countries. In [this article](#), Reddy mentions five differences, including transparency, between the two green building standards.

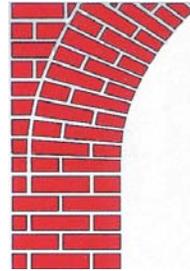
GREEN BUILDING NEWS

The article on green alleys in Washington, DC talks about using permeable concrete, but future alley projects will likely include pavers according to the article. This is great area of opportunity for many cities, saving not only our environment but money as well. ~Tina

Green Building Pilot Program Sparks Debate in Seattle

The "Living Buildings" pilot program in Seattle aims to encourage construction of facilities that generate their own water and energy and become "the most

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ecologically sound modern buildings in the world," according to the nonprofit Living Future Institute (LFI). Skanska USA's planned Stone 34 building -- which goes beyond LEED Platinum -- is trying for "Living Building" status, but the LFI says Stone 34 can't qualify because Skanska selected only the standards that it wanted to meet. "They may meet the letter of the law, but not its intent of promoting a radical, global change in how buildings are designed and built," says one critic according to [this Seattle Times article](#).

Green Alleys Project: A Step Towards a Sustainable D.C.

Permeable concrete has replaced impervious surfaces in three alleys in Washington, D.C., in an attempt to reduce stormwater runoff and enhance the quality of what remains. The work is part of the District's Green Alley Pilot initiative that uses sustainable design and low-impact development techniques. "Improving the health of our rivers and streams starts in our neighborhoods with creative solutions like these green alleys," said Mayor Vincent Gray, in this [CENews.com article](#) and future alleys will include pavers.

The Importance of the Contractor in Sustainable Building

Contractors play a major role in construction plans from the pre-design to the closeout stage, which is why those involved in sustainable projects in the built environment must be able to identify what features make it sustainable, writes Jeslin Varghese, sustainability director at the Green Building Research Institute. In this piece in [Sustainable Construction magazine](#), Varghese details the contractors' role in sustainable-design projects and explains how and why LEED projects are proliferating.

Green Building Industry Marching Forward, But Facing Some Uncertainty

Federal pullback in LEED certification and the delay in balloting on the next version of LEED highlight some of the challenges facing the green building movement. Read more [here](#).

U.S. Cuts Greenhouse Gases Despite Do-Nothing Congress

Despite there being no real effort by Congress to address global warming and America's longstanding reputation as an energy hog, U.S. carbon dioxide emissions are falling. The main and most surprising reason: cheap natural gas. "The primary reason by



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far is low natural gas prices," said Robert Stavins, director of the environmental economics program at Harvard in [this article](#).

EDUCATION

There are several opportunities over the next few months to expand your knowledge of sustainability, masonry and more. Check out the links below. ~Tina

TMS Annual Meeting Provides Educational Opportunities

Mark your calendar for [TMS's 2012 Annual Meeting](#), which will be held on September 13-18 in Greenville, SC. A full slate of presentations and activities is planned. We hope you'll be able to join us as we celebrate TMS's 35th "birthday" as a professional society.

Resilient Buildings Workshop: Integrating Materials, Systems, Resilience and Sustainability

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate and the Concrete Joint Sustainability Initiative invite you to attend the Resilient Buildings Workshop: Integrating Materials, Systems, Resilience and Sustainability. The workshop is free of charge and will take place at the National Building Museum on Oct. 18. The Resilient Buildings Workshop is a collaborative effort between federal government and private sector. To learn more, [click here](#).

Register for Greenbuild 2012 Today

Registration is open for the [Greenbuild International Conference and Expo](#) — the world's largest conference and expo dedicated to green building, to be held November 14-16, 2012 in San Francisco, California. Learn about what education will be available at Greenbuild 2012 and [access the education program »](#)

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