

February 18, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: LEED® 2009 Information: FloorScore Certification

The following is provided in response to inquiries for information relative to American Olean product(s) and FloorScore certification, which is referenced in the LEED® 2009 Green Building Rating Systems.

American Olean products are not FloorScore certified, but it is not needed to satisfy LEED® 2009 criteria. Development of the FloorScore program was originally initiated by the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) and is maintained by Scientific Certification Systems, Inc. (SCS). It tests and certifies flooring products for compliance with indoor air quality emissions using test methods adopted in California. According to the SCS web site, FloorScore products include vinyl, linoleum, non-PVC resilient flooring, wall base, and associated sundries. Further information can be found at <http://www.scscertified.com/iaq/floorscore.html>.

Please be advised that the testing required to obtain the FloorScore certification was actually developed based on the same testing required by the California Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) Program, namely the test methodology specified in CA Department of Public Health Standard – Section 01350. In fact, this test method is the exact same one used for all the following certifications:

SCS/RFI	FloorScore
SCS	Indoor Advantage, Indoor Advantage Gold
AQSI/GEI	Greenguard, Greenguard - Children & Schools,
CRI	Green Label, Green Label Plus

Since FloorScore was originally intended to be specific to the Resilient Floor Covering Institute, specifications for products having low VOC emissions would be better served to reference the CHPS Low-Emitting Materials Table.

Although our manufactured tile products are not FloorScore certified, they have been tested using the CA DPH Standard - Section 01350. The results of this testing document that there are **no** detectable emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). **Thus, they actually exceed the requirements for obtaining the FloorScore certification.** Based on the testing results, all of our manufactured fired tile products are listed on the CHPS table of Low-Emitting Materials. For details, go to [http://www.chps.net/manual/lem\\_table.htm#Flooring](http://www.chps.net/manual/lem_table.htm#Flooring).

With regard to the LEED® Green Building Rating Systems, Versions 2.2 and earlier do not provide any Indoor Air Quality credit points specific to ceramic tile products. However, hard surface flooring products can help a project obtain 1 credit point for low-emitting materials in all of the new LEED® 2009 Green Building Rating Systems. The new EQ Credit 4.3: Low-Emitting Materials: Flooring Systems reads in part as follows.

“All of the hard surface flooring must be certified as compliant with the FloorScore standard ...

**OR**

All flooring products will meet the testing and product requirements of the California Department of Public Health Standard Practice for The Testing Of Volatile Organic Emissions From Various Sources Using Small-Scale Environmental Chambers ...”

In summary, all of our American Olean manufactured products 1) have been tested by an outside laboratory using the Small-Scale Environmental Chamber Test (CA DPH Section 01350), 2) are documented to emit no VOCs, 3) have been evaluated and accepted by the CHPS Program, 4) are listed in the CHPS table of Low-Emitting Materials, and 5) satisfy the requirements of EQ Credit 4.3: Low-Emitting Materials: Flooring Systems, as specified in all of the new LEED® 2009 Green Building Rating Systems (full text follows on next page).

Should you have any questions or need further information, feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,



Robert Hurt  
Director - Environmental, Health & Safety

## **LEED 2009-New Construction**

### **EQ Credit 4.3: Low-Emitting Materials: Flooring Systems (1 Point)**

#### **Intent**

Reduce the quantity of indoor air contaminants that are odorous, irritating and/or harmful to the comfort and well-being of installers and occupants.

#### **Requirements**

All flooring must comply with the following as applicable to the project scope.

All carpet installed in the building interior shall meet the testing and product requirements of the Carpet and Rug Institute's Green Label Plus program.

All carpet cushion installed in the building interior shall meet the requirements of the Carpet and Rug Institute Green Label program.

All carpet adhesive shall meet the requirements of EQ Credit 4.1: VOC limit of 50 g/L.

#### **AND**

All of the hard surface flooring must be certified as compliant with the FloorScore standard (current as of the date of this Rating System, or more stringent version) by an independent third party.

Flooring products covered by FloorScore include vinyl, linoleum, laminate flooring, wood flooring, ceramic flooring, rubber flooring, wall base, and associated sundries.

An alternative compliance path using FloorScore is acceptable for credit achievement according to the following stipulations. 100% of the non-carpet finished flooring must be FloorScore certified, and it must comprise, at minimum, at least 25% of the finished floor area. Potential examples of unfinished flooring include floors in mechanical rooms, electrical rooms, and elevator service rooms.

#### **AND**

Concrete, wood, bamboo, and cork floor finishes such as sealer, stain and finish must meet the requirements of South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rule 1113, Architectural Coatings, rules in effect on January 1, 2004.

#### **AND**

Tile setting adhesives and grout must meet South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rule #1168. VOC limits correspond to an effective date of July 1, 2005 and rule amendment date of January 7, 2005.

#### **OR**

All flooring products will meet the testing and product requirements of the California Department of Public Health Standard Practice for The Testing Of Volatile Organic Emissions From Various Sources Using Small-Scale Environmental Chambers, including 2004 Addenda.

#### **Potential Technologies & Strategies**

Clearly specify requirements for product testing and/or certification in the construction documents. Select products that are either certified under the Green Label Plus program or for which testing has been done by qualified independent laboratories in accordance with the appropriate requirements.

The Green Label Plus program for carpets and its associated VOC emission criteria in micrograms per square meter per hour, along with information on testing method and sample collection developed by the Carpet & Rug Institute (CRI) in coordination with California's Sustainable Building Task Force and the California Department of Public Health Services (DHS), are described in Section 9, Acceptable Emissions Testing for Carpet, DHS Standard Practice CA/DHS/EHLB/R-174, dated 07/15/04. This document is available at:

[www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/deodc/ehlb/iaq/VOCs/Section01350\\_7\\_15\\_2004\\_FINAL\\_PLUS\\_ADDENDUM-2004-01.pdf](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/deodc/ehlb/iaq/VOCs/Section01350_7_15_2004_FINAL_PLUS_ADDENDUM-2004-01.pdf). (also published as Section 01350 Section 9 [dated 2004] by the Collaborative for High Performance Schools [www.chps.net]).

FloorScore is a voluntary, independent certification program that tests and certifies hard surface flooring and associated products for compliance with criteria adopted in California for indoor air emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) with potential health effects. The program uses a small-scale chamber test protocol and incorporates VOC emissions criteria developed by the California Department of Health Services, which are widely known as Section 1350.