

Interior Paints and Finishes Certified Low-Emission

Last Updated: 08/19/2016

Scope



In living spaces, utilize third-party certified low-emission paints and finishes that are designed to reduce human exposure indoors to individual VOCs. At least 90 percent of the interior surface area covered by site-applied paints and coatings shall use low-VOC or no-VOC products certified by one of the following third-party standards or certifications:

- [GREENGUARD or GREENGUARD GOLD Certification for Paints and Coatings](#), OR
- [Scientific Certification Systems \(SCS\) Standard EC-10.2-2007, Indoor Advantage Gold](#), OR
- [A third-party low-emitting product list based on CA Section 01350 \(CDPH Standard Method V1.1-2010\)](#), OR
- [Green Seal Standard GS-11](#), OR
- [Green Wise and Green Wise Gold products](#), OR
- [Master Painters Institute \(MPI\) Green Performance Standards X-Green, GPS-1 or GPS-2.](#)



[How to Find Indoor airPLUS Compliant Low Emission Products](#)

The [How to Find Indoor airPLUS Compliant Low Emission Products](#) document provides guidance on identifying compliant products including industry databases and examples of product labeling. The guide also includes more detailed descriptions of the compliant third-party standards and certifications applicable to interior paints and finishes. Utilize this guide when outlining detailed product certifications to be included in the project specifications and/or subcontractor bid package.

See the [Compliance Tab](#) for related codes and standards requirements, and criteria to meet national programs such as DOE's Zero Energy Ready Home program, ENERGY STAR Certified Homes, and Indoor airPLUS.

Ensuring Success

To meet Indoor airPLUS specifications, include product certification requirements for interior paints and finishes in the project specifications and/or bid package. In general, the most progressive low-emission paint certifications are based on [California 01350, the Standard Method for the Testing and Evaluation of Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions from Indoor Sources using Environmental Chamber](#). This standard, updated in February 2010, established emissions requirements to ensure the certifications follow a standard practice for product testing and VOC calculations. However, not all third party certifications compliant with Indoor airPLUS are based on California 01350. While these certifications do not all have the exact same level of stringency or testing protocols, they currently provide a variety of reliable and market-available low-emission paints and finishes.

Even when selecting certified paints, coatings, cabinets, carpet and composite wood, these products may not be 100% emissions-free. Therefore, to protect construction teams and future occupants, ventilate the home during and shortly after installing products that are known sources of contaminants (e.g., cabinets, carpet padding, paint, and other finishes) and during the time between construction completion and occupancy. See Indoor airPLUS Item 7.2 for more details on ventilation strategy to dilute pollutants.

Climate

No climate specific information applies.

Training

Right and Wrong Images

None Available

CAD

None Available

Compliance

[DOE Zero Energy Ready Home](#)

Zero Energy Ready Home (Rev. 03) Exhibit 1, Item 6 “Indoor Air Quality” requires that builders meet the EPA Indoor airPLUS Verification Checklist and Construction Specifications.

[EPA Indoor airPLUS](#)

The Indoor airPLUS Verification Checklist (Version 1 Rev. 03) states:

6.2: Interior Paints and Finishes

- At least 90 percent of the interior surface area covered by site-applied paints and coatings shall use low-VOC or no-VOC products certified by one of the following third-party standards or certifications:
 - [GREENGUARD or GREENGUARD GOLD Certification for Paints and Coatings](#), OR
 - [Scientific Certification Systems \(SCS\) Standard EC-10.2-2007, Indoor Advantage Gold](#), OR
 - [A third-party low-emitting product list based on CA Section 01350 \(CDPH Standard Method V1.1-2010\)](#), OR
 - [Green Seal Standard GS-11](#), OR
 - [Green Wise and Green Wise Gold products](#), OR
 - [Master Painters Institute \(MPI\) Green Performance Standards X-Green, GPS-1 or GPS-2](#).

The [How to Find Indoor airPLUS Compliant Low Emission Products](#) document provides guidance on identifying compliant products including industry databases and examples of product labeling.

More Info.

Case Studies

None Available

References and Resources*

1. [DOE Zero Energy Ready Home National Program Requirements](#)

Author(s): DOE

Organization(s): DOE

Publication Date: August, 2015

Standard requirements for DOE's Zero Energy Ready Home national program certification.

2. [How to Find Indoor airPLUS Compliant Low Emission Products](#)

Author(s): EPA

Organization(s): EPA

Publication Date: October, 2015

Companion document to the Indoor airPLUS Construction Specifications, providing guidance on identifying compliant products, including industry databases and examples of product labeling.

3. [Indoor airPLUS Construction Specifications Version 1 \(Rev. 03\)](#)

Author(s): EPA

Organization(s): EPA

Publication Date: October, 2015

Document outlining specifications that were developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to recognize new homes equipped with a comprehensive set of indoor air quality (IAQ) features.

4. [Standard Practice for the Testing of Volatile Organic Emissions from Various Sources Using Small-Scale Environmental Chambers Version 1.1 \(California 01350\)](#)

Author(s): Division of Environmental and Occupational Disease Control

Organization(s): California Department of Public Health (CDHP)

Publication Date: February, 2010

Detailed requirements for testing, exposure modeling, and allowable limits for modeled indoor air concentrations.

*Publication dates are shown for formal documents. Dates are not shown for non-dated media. Access dates for referenced, non-dated media, such as web sites, are shown in the measure guide text.

Contributors to this Guide

None Available