



## SFI-Certified Wood and LEED Pilot Credit 43

In June 2011, the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) announced the LEED pilot credit for the use of non-structural wood that is open to all certified wood in North America, including products certified to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) standard.

Pilot Credit 43 is a radical change from the LEED Materials & Resources Credit 7 and USGBC's previous treatment of forest certification. It allows builders and architects to obtain a point under LEED Innovation in Design by using non-structural products such as furniture, flooring, windows and doors certified to the SFI standard. LEED users seeking a point must also provide feedback on the applicability of the credit through the LEED user forum ([www.leeduser.com/credit/Pilot-Credits/PC43](http://www.leeduser.com/credit/Pilot-Credits/PC43)).

USGBC refers to pilot credits as 'multi-stakeholder market tests' and uses them to test drive ideas before making them official LEED credits. USGBC relies heavily on user input so it is critical that architects and builders provide feedback about the value of allowing multiple forest certification standards. Anyone can post comments or view the full language of the pilot credit at [www.leeduser.com/credit/Pilot-Credits/PC43](http://www.leeduser.com/credit/Pilot-Credits/PC43).

### Benefits of Pilot Credit 43

Wood's inherent properties — as a sustainable and renewable resource — make it an excellent environmental choice for any new construction or renovation project. Forest certification is a proof point that wood products are from well-managed forests backed by a rigorous, independent audit.

The credit will encourage greater use of certified wood from a variety of credible programs. Its intent is to "increase the use of products and materials with life cycles, ingredients and attributes understood and optimized to improve overall environmental, economic and social performance."

Recent reports show growing similarities among the certification standards in North America. The UN 2009-2010 Forest Products Annual Market Review states: "Over the years, many of the issues that previously divided the (certification) systems have become much less distinct. The largest certification systems now generally have the same structural programmatic requirements."

Just 10 percent of the world's forests are certified. By making it easier for specifiers and builders to use and get credit for certified wood, Pilot Credit 43 is sending a clear signal to the marketplace that it is worth the extra effort to seek and achieve third-party forest certification. This can drive demand for more certified products and increase the amount of certified lands in North America and globally.

### Comment on Pilot Credit 43

Architects, builders and LEED Accredited Professionals are encouraged to tell USGBC that access to all credible standards, including SFI, makes it easier for them to find wood products from responsible sources.

USGBC requests feedback that answers the following types of questions:

- As a LEED project team, how difficult was it to locate the applicable pathway level of certifications/labels receiving credit?
- How were you able to obtain certification information for products? How difficult was it?
- What were the major barriers to achieving credit performance? Do you think the threshold is reasonable?
- How was the total materials cost for non-structural products found? Is it a calculation that is tracked as part of regular construction process or was the number calculated only for the purposes of LEED?
- What certifications/labels would you like USGBC to consider for inclusion in this pilot credit?

LEED Pilot Credit 43 language is found at [www.leeduser.com/credit/Pilot-Credits/PC43#lang-tab](http://www.leeduser.com/credit/Pilot-Credits/PC43#lang-tab) and comments can be posted at [www.leeduser.com/credit/Pilot-Credits/PC43](http://www.leeduser.com/credit/Pilot-Credits/PC43).

**For more information, you can visit the SFI LEED update website ([www.sfiprogram.org/leed](http://www.sfiprogram.org/leed)) or you can contact Jason Metnick, SFI Senior Director, Market Access and Product Labeling, at [jason.metnick@sfiprogram.org](mailto:jason.metnick@sfiprogram.org).**

### ABOUT SFI INC.

SFI Inc. ([www.sfiprogram.org](http://www.sfiprogram.org)) is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization, and is solely responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving the internationally recognized Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program. Across North America, more than 185 million acres/75 million hectares are certified to the SFI forest management standard, making it the largest single forest standard in the world. SFI chain-of-custody certification tells buyers the percentage of fiber from certified forests, certified sourcing and/or post-consumer recycled content. The SFI program's unique fiber sourcing requirements promote responsible forest management on all suppliers' lands. SFI Inc. is governed by a three-chamber board of directors representing environmental, social and economic sectors equally.