



What does it mean
to be green?





Being green is fast becoming an essential component of almost every commercial building and interiors project. At the same time, more architects and designers are looking for high quality green products in order to meet new green building guidelines, which continue to evolve at a rapid pace and as a result, there are many entities involved in establishing standards and certifying that they have been met.

This “green primer” is designed to help you become familiar with the organizations, certifications and terminology that you are most likely to encounter while working on a project that is adopting sustainable guidelines and practices. Armed with these fundamentals, you will be able to position yourself as an informed furnishings resource and a knowledgeable member of the project team.

citizen
decca

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Introduction to Green Building Rating Systems: USGBC & LEED

Worldwide, a variety of assessment programs have been developed around environmental and energy impacts of buildings. In 1990, the first environmental certification system was created in the UK, The Building Research Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM).

In 1998 the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System was introduced based substantially on the BREEAM system. In turn, the Green Building Initiative (GBI) launched Green Globes in 2005 by adapting the Canadian version of BREEAM and distributing it in the U.S. market. These are the predominant rating systems currently employed in the U.S.

USGBC (www.usgbc.org)

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) is a 501 (c)(3), non-profit organization composed of leaders from every sector of the building industry working to promote buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable and healthy places to live and work. With more than 11,000 member organizations and a network of 75 regional chapters, the USGBC is united to advance their mission of transforming the building industry to sustainability.

LEED

Developed by USGBC, the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED gives building owners and operators the tools they need to have an immediate and measurable impact on their buildings' performance. LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality.

LEED Certification

LEED certification provides independent, third-party verification that a building project meets the highest performance standards. The LEED plaque is recognized nationwide as proof that a building is environmentally responsible, profitable, and a healthy place to live and work. Only buildings, not products, can achieve LEED certification.

Professional Accreditation

A LEED Accredited Professional™ is an individual who has demonstrated the ability to serve on a LEED project team and provide detailed knowledge of LEED project certification requirements and processes. LEED accreditation is awarded to building professionals who successfully demonstrate these proficiencies on a comprehensive exam administered by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI).

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

LEED provides a roadmap for measuring and documenting success for every building type and phase of a building lifecycle. Key LEED programs and rating systems include but are not limited to:

LEED for New Construction & Major Renovations (LEED-NC)

The LEED Green Building Rating System for New Construction and Major Renovations (formerly referred to as LEED-NC) provides a set of performance standards for certifying the design and construction phases of commercial, institutional and high-rise residential buildings, in both the public and private sectors.

LEED for Commercial Interiors (LEED-CI)

The LEED for Commercial Interiors Rating System provides a set of performance standards for the design and construction of tenant spaces in government and private sectors for office, retail, restaurant, healthcare, hotel/resort and education building applications. The intent for LEED Commercial Interiors is to assist in the creation of high performance, healthful, durable, affordable and environmentally sound commercial interiors.

LEED for Core & Shell Development (LEED-CS)

The LEED for Core & Shell Rating System was developed to serve the speculatively driven development market where project teams routinely do not control all aspects of a building's design and construction. The scope of LEED-CS is limited to those elements of the project under the direct control of the owner/developer.

LEED for Existing Buildings (LEED-EB)

LEED for Existing Buildings is a method for building owners and operators of existing buildings to implement sustainable operations and maintenance practices and reduce the environmental impact of a building over its functional life cycle. LEED for Existing Buildings is targeted at single buildings that are 100% owner-occupied as well as multiple building projects and single, multi-tenant buildings.

For information on other LEED programs and rating systems visit www.usgbc.org

LEED Rating System

The LEED Rating Systems are organized into five environmental credit categories. An additional category, Innovation & Design Process, addresses sustainable building expertise as well as design measures not covered under the five environmental credit categories. Each category consists of prerequisites that must be accomplished in order to achieve certification and total possible points. DECCA products and furniture products in general contribute points to the Materials & Resources and Indoor Environmental Quality categories only. **However, no single product can help a project achieve LEED points.**

CATEGORY	Possible Points		
	LEED NC	LEED CI	LEED CS&EB
Sustainable Sites	14	17	15
Water Efficiency	5	2	2
Energy & Atmosphere	17	13	16
Materials & Resources	13	8	11
Indoor Environmental Quality	15	12	20
Innovation & Design	5	5	5

To earn LEED certification for any of these programs, the applicant project must satisfy all of the prerequisites and a minimum number of points to attain the established LEED project ratings as listed below.

	LEED NC	LEED CI	LEED CS	LEED EB
Certified	26 - 32 pts	21 - 26 pts	23 - 27 pts	32 - 39 pts
Silver	33 - 38 pts	27 - 31 pts	28 - 33 pts	40 - 47 pts
Gold	39 - 51 pts	32 - 41 pts	34 - 44 pts	48 - 63 pts
Platinum	52 - 69 pts	42 - 57 pts	45 - 61 pts	64 - 85 pts

Introduction

GBI and Green Globes™

GBI (www.thegbi.org)

The Green Building Initiative (GBI) was conceived as a way to bring green building into the mainstream by helping local Home Builder Associations (HBAs) develop green building programs. In 2005, GBI became the first green building organization to be accredited as a standards developer by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and began the process of establishing Green Globes as an official ANSI standard. The GBI ANSI technical committee was formed in early 2006.

The GBI is governed by a multi-stakeholder board of 15 directors, comprised of representatives from industry, NGOs, construction companies, architectural firms and academic institutions. Each board member has one vote, so no single entity or individual has more control than any other. An example of GBI's inclusiveness is that the organization recognizes timber certified by ATFS, CSA and SFI, in addition to FSC. The mission of the Green Building Initiative is to accelerate the adoption of building practices that result in energy-efficient, healthier and environmentally sustainable buildings by promoting credible and practical green building approaches for residential and commercial construction.

Green Globes™

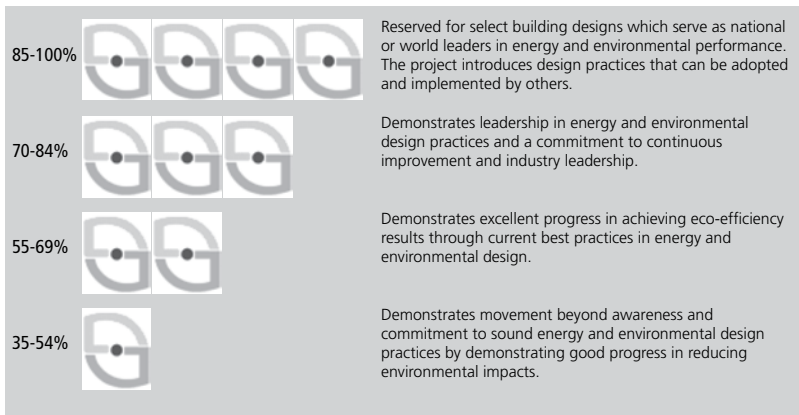
The Green Globes system was adapted from a Canadian protocol of the same name. The GBI owns the license to promote and further develop Green Globes in the United States. A revolutionary web-based green management tool, the Green Globes system includes an assessment protocol, rating system and guide for integrating environmentally friendly design into commercial buildings. It serves as a virtual consultant and simplifies the documentation process. Once complete, it also facilitates recognition of the project through third-party verification. Green Globes is an interactive, flexible and affordable approach to environmental design.

Green Globes™ Certification

The Green Globes system is questionnaire-driven. At each stage of the design process, users are walked through a logical sequence of questions that provide guidance for integrating important elements of sustainability. The "Construction Documents" questionnaire is the basis for the rating system.

Green Globes™ Ratings

Once an assessment is verified by a third party, properties achieving a score of 35% or more receive a Green Globes rating based on the percentage of total points (up to 1000) achieved.



Third-Party Environmental Labeling & Certifications

The following environmental labels and certification programs are the most widely recognized and legitimate labels commonly used in the U.S. and are applicable to wood-based products and materials. Although some labels certify similar environmental attributes, others have distinct differences and costs that may vary widely.

GREENGUARD (www.greenguard.org)



The GREENGUARD Environmental Institute (GEI) is an industry-independent, non-profit organization that oversees the GREENGUARD Certification Program. GEI was founded in June of 2001 to establish a true third-party product certification program based on proven emissions standards and to provide specifying and procurement professionals with a resource for low-emitting products. The program evolved out of one originally established to identify manufacturers and products that had been tested and found to meet the general product emissions standards established by the State of Washington and the office furniture emissions standard established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for their Headquarters' Project.

The GREENGUARD Certification ProgramSM is an industry-independent, third-party testing program for low-emitting products and materials. The program is voluntary and available to all manufacturers and their suppliers.

The first GREENGUARD Certification was awarded in the fall of 2002. To date, more than 100 manufacturers across various industries offer GREENGUARD Indoor Air Quality Certified[®] Products. With more than 40 participating furniture manufacturers and thousands of furniture products, the GREENGUARD Certification is the most recognized program for specifying low-emitting furniture for sustainable building programs, including Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).

All GREENGUARD Certified products are listed in the GREENGUARD Online Product Guide, an indoor air quality (IAQ) resource that is provided at no charge. The guide features products, which are regularly tested to ensure that their chemical and particle emissions meet acceptable IAQ pollutant guidelines and standards. GREENGUARD Certification is a valuable tool for architects, designers, product specifiers, and purchasing organizations that want to locate, specify, and purchase off-the-shelf, low-emitting products for indoor environments.

Green Seal (www.greenseal.org)



Green Seal is an independent, science-based, non-profit organization that focuses exclusively on environmentally preferable products, purchasing and operations. It is the only U.S. organization with an existing body of standards that recommends specific brands and models of environmentally responsible products based on their life cycle.

Green Seal meets the EPA's Criteria for Third Party Certifiers, the definitions of the Federal Office of Management and Budget and the requirements of ISO 14020 and 14024. Green Seal is also the U.S. member of the Global Ecolabelling Network (GEN), an international harmonizing body of 26 of the world's leading ecolabeling programs including Germany's Blue Angel and the Nordic Swan.

To certify a product, Green Seal conducts a rigorous evaluation and testing of its attributes to ensure all criteria are met. In addition, Green Seal audits the facilities at which the product is manufactured and monitors the product annually. Certifications are conducted under a contract with the manufacturer and a fee is charged for the evaluation process. Certification entitles a manufacturer to use the Green Seal certification mark on the product, in advertising and in promotion. Green Seal certified products include office furniture, particleboard & MDF, carpet, lighting and paper.

Cradle to Cradle (www.mbdc.com)



McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry, LLC (MBDC), is a product and process design firm dedicated to revolutionizing the design of products and services worldwide. William McDonough and Dr. Michael Braungart founded MBDC in 1995 to promote and shape the "Next Industrial Revolution" through a new design paradigm called Cradle to Cradle Design, and the implementation of eco-effective design principles.

MBDC's Cradle to Cradle Design is a fundamental conceptual shift away from the flawed system design of the last century. Instead of designing products and systems based on the take-make-waste model ('cradle to grave'), Cradle to Cradle Design is powering the Next Industrial Revolution, in which products and services are designed based on patterns found in nature, eliminating the concept of waste entirely and creating an abundance that is healthy and sustaining. Eco-Effective design is MBDC's strategy for realizing these results by optimizing materials to be food either for nature's ecosystems or for humans' industrial systems—perpetually circulating in closed systems that create value and are inherently healthy and safe.

Scientific Certification Systems



Founded in 1984 near Oakland, California, Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) encourages more environmentally sustainable policy planning, product design, management systems and production operations through a series of internationally recognized evaluation, certification and labeling programs. These programs are designed to give consumers, business managers and government policy setters the crucial environmental information they need to make educated decisions.

SCS can help clients certify products in order to gain LEED points in the materials and resources category, the indoor environmental quality category, and the innovation and design category. Several LEED points are dependent on third-party certification or proving equivalence to a given standard. SCS can certify the major wood product types, such as particleboard and MDF for LEED Credit.

The Environmental Claims Certification Program established by SCS provides independent verification of the accuracy of environmental claims appearing on products and packaging. SCS has verified environmental claims appearing on hundreds of products and continues to be a leader in educating the public about the proper use of “green” marketing claims. Examples of environmental claims that SCS certifies are: Recycled/Recovered Content, Biodegradability and Organic Products.

Indoor Advantage™

Indoor Advantage™ Gold tests and certifies non-flooring products generally used within an enclosed indoor environment for compliance with indoor air quality emission requirements. An important distinction between Indoor Advantage Gold and GreenGuard™ is the use of health-based Chronic Reference Exposure Levels (CRELs) as thresholds rather than Total VOCs and Threshold Limit Values (TLVs).



Environmentally Preferable Products

With the issuing of Executive Order 13101 in 1998, federal agencies and their contractors were directed to identify and purchase products designated as “environmentally preferable”. In response to the growing demand for products that have the least impact on the environment, the SCS developed a certification program for Environmentally Preferable Products and Services (EPP).



SCS uses a combination of techniques to establish environmental preferability, including life-cycle impact assessment. The SCS standards address a wide range of products, serving industrial, business, building and construction, manufacturing and residential customers with a focus on product groups in which significant environmental improvements are attainable. These include: adhesives and sealants, cabinetry and casework, composite panels products (MDF, particleboard, hardboard) and furniture (modular systems). This program complies with internationally recognized ISO-14000 standards, the US EPA guidelines for environmentally preferable products, and US FTC guidelines for responsible environmental labeling.

Certified Recycled Content

In the early 1990s, SCS developed the leading independent, third-party recycled content certification program. To date, SCS has certified hundreds of companies and thousands of products for recycled content and was also one of the first FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) accredited certifying organizations.



SGS Group



SGS Group is an international inspection, verification, testing, and certification company, recognized as the global benchmark for quality and integrity. SGS operates a network of over 1,000 offices and state-of-the-art laboratories around the world.

SGS inspects and verifies the quantity, weight, and quality of traded goods at the manufacturer's/supplier's premises at time of loading or at destination during discharge/off-loading.

SGS tests product quality and performance against various health, safety, and regulatory standards. SGS operates testing laboratories on or close to customers' premises. SGS certifies that products, systems or services meet the requirements of standards set by governments, standardization bodies (e.g. ISO 9000), or by SGS customers. SGS also develops and certifies its own standards.

SGS verifies that products and services comply with global standards and local regulations. Utilizing experience and expertise in virtually every industry, SGS covers the entire supply chain from raw materials to final consumption.

BIFMA International (www.bifma.com)



Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association

BIFMA is a not-for-profit organization that provides a forum for Members to cooperate and collaborate on industry issues. As an ANSI accredited standards developer, BIFMA develops voluntary product and industry standards that support safe, healthy and sustainable work environments, publishes key industry statistics and advocates for legislation and government regulation that have direct impact on the health of the industry.

BIFMA efforts to develop furniture emissions standards began in 1994 at the request of the General Services Administration (GSA). In September of 2007, American National Standard Institute (ANSI) approved and released two BIFMA standards for emissions from office furniture: ANSI/BIFMA M7.1-2007 Standard Test Method for Determining VOC Emissions from Office Furniture Systems, Components and Seating, and ANSI/BIFMA X7.1-2007 Standard for Formaldehyde and TVOC Emissions of Low-emitting Office Furniture Systems and Seating.

These voluntary national standards provide manufacturers, specifiers and users with a basis for characterizing the initial release of various airborne chemicals emitted from a furniture workstation and seating. These ANSI/BIFMA Furniture Emissions Standards have been adopted by, among others, the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) as part of the LEED for Commercial Interiors rating system, the Scientific Certification Systems Indoor Advantage™ program and partially adopted by the Greenguard Environmental Institute. In addition, the States of California and Minnesota have adopted the M7.1 test method as part of their purchase criteria for state office furniture.

Sustainable Forest Management & Certified Wood

Sustainable forestry is a balance of maintaining ecological integrity, meeting the landowner's needs and desires and providing societal benefits. When the ecological integrity of a forest is maintained, the natural processes that occur within that forest are protected. Natural hydrology is maintained, forest soils are protected and a habitat for plants and animals flourishes.

Landowner goals can vary widely. Some want to manage their land to attract wildlife. Others may want to profitably manage their forests for timber. Some owners care about protecting the health of the forest or the quality of water that runs off the land. Many of these goals are compatible with sustainable forest management.

The benefits of sustainable forest management extend not only to the landowner, but to the land itself, and subsequently, to society. Protecting water quality benefits all who are downstream of the forest. Protecting the ecological integrity of the land creates a haven for plants and animals and a legacy for future generations.

With forest certification, independent auditors verify that forests are well-managed according to the principles and criteria developed and approved by a forest certification agency. Certified Wood comes from a forest that has met these strict environmental, social, and economic standards.

Several forest certification systems have emerged throughout the world. As a result, there is no single, global standard and each system takes a somewhat different approach in defining standards for sustainable forest management. It is important to know that certified wood can be limited to certain species and while improving, the quality or grade of certified veneer is often not on par with non-certified veneer.

FSC (www.fsc.org)



The Forest Stewardship Council is an international non-profit organization founded in 1993 to support environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests. It supports the development of national and regional standards to be used to evaluate whether a forest is being well-managed.

FSC, with its head office in the city of Bonn, Germany, is governed by an elected Board which consists of people from industry, environmental, social and labor groups, Indigenous People's representatives and others.

While it can be more expensive than wood from other forest certifiers, it is the only certified wood recognized by the USGBC & LEED.

CSA (www.csa.ca)



Canadian Standards Association
Chartered in 1919, the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) is a not-for-profit membership-based association serving business, industry, government, and consumers in Canada and the global marketplace. It has developed over 2000 standards for various industries. In 1973, CSA was accredited by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) to the National Standards System and operates in accordance with the disciplines established by the SCC.

CSA has been working in the environmental area for the past decade. In response to heightened awareness about forest management practices, Canada's National Standard on Sustainable Forest Management Standard, CAN/CSA Z809 was developed. Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) refers to the way a forest is managed to maintain and enhance the long-term health of forest ecosystems for current and future generations.

SFI (www.sfiprogram.org)



Adopted by the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) in October 1994, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) program is an exacting standard of environmental principles, objectives and performance measures that integrates the perpetual growing and harvesting of trees with the protection of wildlife, plants, soil and water quality and a wide range of other conservation goals. Through the SFISM program, members of the American Forest & Paper Association are revolutionizing the way that private forests are managed in the U.S.

ATFS (www.treefarmssystem.org)



The American Tree Farm System® (ATFS), a program of the American Forest Foundation, a national non-profit organization, is committed to sustaining forests, watershed and healthy habitats through the power of private stewardship. The American Forest Foundation (AFF), is the oldest and largest voluntary, third party verification process in the United States.

Since 1941, ATFS has recognized the commitment of private forest owners in the United States. Tree Farmers share a unique commitment to protect wildlife habitat and watersheds, to conserve soil and to provide recreation for their communities while producing wood for America. These individuals play an important role in sustaining the kinds of forests, forest activities and forest resources future generations will enjoy.

PEFC (www.pefc.org)



The PEFC Council (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes) is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization, founded in 1999, which promotes sustainably managed forests through independent third party certification. The PEFC provides an assurance mechanism to purchasers of wood and paper products that they are promoting the sustainable management of forests.

PEFC is a global umbrella organization for the assessment of and mutual recognition of national forest certification schemes developed in a multi-stakeholder process. These national schemes build upon the inter-governmental processes for the promotion of sustainable forest management, a series of on-going mechanisms supported by 149 governments and covering 85% of the world's forest area.

Glossary

Agricultural Waste Material	Fibrous biomass generated as a by-product of an agricultural crop that can be reclaimed for a secondary use not related to the original agricultural function (sometimes referred to as “agfiber” or “agrifiber”). Examples of reclaimed agricultural waste materials include, but are not limited to, sugarcane bagasse, agricultural prunings, rice and grass straw or grain or cereal straw.
Biobased Material	A product determined by the Secretary of Agriculture to be a commercial or industrial product (other than food or feed) that is composed, in whole or in significant part, of biological products or renewable domestic agricultural materials (including plant, animal and marine materials) or forestry materials (as defined by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act 2002 [FSRUA] Sec.9001.2).
Certified Forest	A forest that has been independently inspected and evaluated according to the principles and criteria for forest management agreed and approved by a forest certification agency such as the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), Canadian Standards Association (CSA) and American Tree Farm System (ATFS).
Certified Wood	Wood from a forest that is well managed, according to strict environmental, social and economic standards.
Chain-of-Custody (COC)	The path taken by raw materials, processed materials and products from the forest to the consumer, including all successive stages of processing, transformation, manufacturing and distribution. The COC certificate number is listed on invoices for non-labeled products to document that an entity has followed FSC Guidelines for product accounting. COC is not required by distributors of a product that is individually labeled with the FSC logo and manufacturer’s COC number.
Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)	Chemical compounds containing chlorine, fluorine and carbon only (no hydrogen). Formerly widely used in industry, the use of CFC’s has been prohibited by the Montreal Protocol because of the effect of these powerful greenhouse gases on the ozone layer.
Chronic Reference Exposure Levels (CRELs)	An airborne level that poses no significant health risk to individuals indefinitely exposed to that level and based solely on health considerations.
Cradle to Cradle	Materials that are perpetually circulated in closed loops, (not dumped in landfills at the end of their life), which maximize material value without damaging ecosystems (see page 9).
Environmentally Preferable Products (EPP)	<p>A product that promotes healthy indoor environments for children, and demonstrates the use of environmentally preferable materials and systems. (see page 10). An environmentally preferable product has some, or all, of the following characteristics relative to those similar products serving similar functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less hazardous to public health, safety and the environment. • Consumes less energy in their manufacture or use. • Contains more recycled or post-consumer material content in their manufacture. • Results in less potential waste. • Results in less harm to indoor air quality. • Consumes less water. • Includes features, or is manufactured from materials, that promote recycling or reuse of the product.

EPA/OSHA	The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has primary responsibility for setting and enforcing national standards under a variety of environmental laws. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is a federal agency that issues and enforces rules to prevent work-related injuries, illnesses and deaths.
Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)	FSC is an international, non-profit association whose membership comprises environmental and social groups and progressive forestry and wood retail companies working in partnership to improve forest management worldwide. (see page 13)
Green Products	Products that have a lesser or reduced impact on human health and the environment than other products that perform a similar function.
Greenwashing	The act of misleading consumers regarding the environmental practices of a company or the environmental benefits of a product or service. For example, many companies are greening products to compete in the growing green marketplace, but may not be greening their company. This can be perceived as “greenwashing”.
Indoor Air Quality	The nature of air inside a space that affects the health and well-being of building occupants.
Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)	LCA is the assessment of the environmental impact of a given product or service throughout its lifespan. LCA's goal through the comparison of products and services is to identify the least burdensome one. The term “life cycle” refers to the notion that a fair, holistic assessment requires the review of raw material production, manufacture, distribution, use and disposal including all intervening transportation steps. LEED Version 3.0 is expected to be released in 2008 and will focus on carbon emissions and life cycle assessment (LCA). Both have an impact on products and manufacturing.
Organic	A labeling term that refers to an agricultural product produced in accordance with The Organic Foods Production Act of 1990, as amended (7 U.S.C.... 6501 et seq.).
Organic Production	A production system that is managed in accordance with The Organic Foods Production Act of 1990, as amended (7 U.S.C. 66501 et seq.), and regulations in this part to respond to site-specific conditions by integrating cultural, biological and mechanical practices that foster cycling of resources, promote ecological balance and conserve biodiversity.
Post-Consumer Material	Material generated by households or by commercial, industrial and institutional facilities in their role as end-users of a product that can no longer be used for its intended purpose. This includes returns of materials from the distribution chain (Source: ISO 14021). Examples include: construction and demolition debris, materials collected through curbside and drop-off recycling programs, broken pallets, discarded products (e.g. furniture, cabinetry and decking) and urban maintenance waste (leaves, grass clippings, tree trimmings, etc).

Pre-Consumer Material	Material derived from the waste stream during the manufacturing process – excluding reutilization of materials such as rework, regrind or scrap generated in a process and capable of being reclaimed within the same process that generated it (Source ISO 14021). Examples include: planer shavings, plytrim, sawdust, chips, bagasse, sunflower seed hulls, walnut shells, culls, trimmed materials, print overruns, over-issue publications and obsolete inventories.
Post-Industrial Material	The definition of post-industrial material is being phased out and is in the process of being superseded by the definition of pre-consumer material as stated by ISO 14021, and FTC Green Marketing Guidelines.
Rapidly-Renewable Material	Materials that are considered to be an agricultural product, both fiber and animal, that take 10-years or less to grow or raise, and harvest in an ongoing and sustainable fashion. Common rapidly-renewable plant materials are bamboo, wheat straw, sunflower hulls, sorghum and cork. Common plantation wood examples include rubber wood, gmelina and mangium.
Reclaimed Content	The proportion, by mass, of reclaimed material in a product or packaging. Reclaimed agricultural waste material and reclaimed silvicultural waste material, as well as pre-consumer and post-consumer materials, can be considered reclaimed content.
Reclaimed Material	Material that would have otherwise been disposed of as waste or used for energy recovery, but has instead been collected and reclaimed as a material input, in lieu of new primary material. Reclaimed materials derived from agricultural and forestry waste materials must also meet the following conditions: 1) removal cannot contribute to the degradation of the soil structure; 2) removal cannot appreciably remove the humus content of the soil; and 3) removal cannot appreciably reduce or alter the NPK nutrients in the soil that would result in a net increase of commercial NPK.
Recycled Content	Proportion, by mass, of recycled material in a product or packaging. Only pre-consumer and post-consumer materials shall be considered as recycled content. (ISO 14021)
Recycled Material	Post-consumer or pre-consumer material that is used as feedstock in the production of new products.
Salvaged Material	Material generated from building deconstruction activities and tree cutting or maintenance programs (not related to logging) in urban or non-urban areas (e.g. parks maintenance, golf course maintenance, municipal storm repair) or abandoned material retrieved from submerged sites (e.g., lake bottoms).
Silvicultural Waste Material	Woody biomass generated as a by-product of commercial logging in managed forests or plantations. Examples include pre-commercial thinnings and logging slash, in excess of amounts that need to be maintained on site to avoid adverse soil and faunal species habitat impacts.

Sustainability	An idealized societal state where people live long, dignified, comfortable and productive lives, satisfying their needs in environmentally sound and socially just ways so as to not compromise the ability of other human beings to do the same now and into the distant future. It is, in effect, an attempt to merge development and nature conservation efforts in such a way as to benefit the common good of the planet's present and future generations.
Sustainable Development	Discovering, adopting, implementing, establishing and adjusting appropriate institutions, policies, strategies and technologies to produce a just transition that moves society toward the envisioned idealized state of existence.
Sustainable Forestry	The practice of managing forest resources to meet the long-term forest product needs of humans while maintaining the biodiversity of forested landscapes. The primary goal is to restore, enhance and sustain a full range of forest values: economic, social and ecological.
Threshold Limit Values (TLVs)	The level of a chemical substance to which it is believed a worker can be exposed day after day for a working lifetime without adverse health effects, used here in the context of occupational health.
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's)	Organic chemical compounds that have high enough vapor pressure under normal conditions to significantly vaporize and enter the atmosphere. VOCs are found in everything from paints and coatings to underarm deodorant and cleaning fluids. A major concern of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state air quality boards, VOCs have been found to be a major contributing factor to ozone, a common air pollutant proven to be a public health hazard.

About DECCA

Decca Holdings Ltd. is a publicly traded corporation founded in 1973 as an interior millwork company with a focus on architectural woodworking for contract and hospitality applications. As Decca has evolved, it has expanded into various areas of the high-end furniture industry. Today, in addition to the office furniture division, Decca Contract, Decca Ltd. operates Decca Hospitality in Atlanta as well as Bolier & Company, a residential products manufacturer based in High Point, North Carolina.

The Decca manufacturing facility occupies over 1.5 million sq. ft. and employs in excess of 2,500 people. State-of-the-art manufacturing equipment, together with the finesse of handcrafting, gives Decca an extraordinary level of flexibility. Our flexibility, combined with high plant capacity, allows Decca to address virtually any size or type of project.

For more information on Decca Holdings Ltd., please visit www.Decca.com.hk.



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For **more information**,
go to deccacontract.com

To reach a **local sales representative**,
go to deccacontract.com/representatives

