



Understanding the Role of Gammapar Products in the LEED Process

LEED® — Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

Introduction

For organizations concerned about increasing the value and efficiency of their buildings, the most sought-after award is Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) certification, granted by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The LEED Green Building Rating System is a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. Based on well-founded scientific standards, LEED emphasizes state of the art strategies for sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

LEED provides a complete framework for assessing building performance and meeting sustainability goals. The “Family of LEED” includes:

- LEED-NC: New Commercial Construction and Major Renovation Projects
- LEED-EB: Existing Building Operations
- LEED-CI: Commercial Interiors Projects
- LEED-CS: Core and Shell Projects
- LEED-H: Homes
- LEED-ND: Neighborhood Development

There are also LEED Programs for [Schools](#), [Retail](#) and [Guidelines for Multiple Buildings and On-Campus Building Projects](#).

LEED-NC is the primary market sector where inclusion of Nydree Group products can contribute to LEED point credits (LEED-EB and LEED-CI may also be examined for certification possibilities). Although USGBC does not certify, promote or endorse products of individual companies, products do play a role and can help projects with credit achievement. Please note that products do not, in and of themselves, earn project points — it’s the building itself that receives points and subsequent certification.

LEED certification has concrete and sustainable benefits:

- Enhanced occupant well-being and comfort
- Reduced operating costs
- Reduced environmental impact
- Increased building valuation and return on investment

- Marketing advantage
- Reduced absenteeism and employee turnover
- Increased retail sales

Based on recent analysis, the aggregate total return of publicly held companies affiliated with the USGBC outperformed the Dow Jones Industrial Average by over 18 percent from 2000 to 2004. This may indicate well-managed, progressive companies are looking to build and operate green as an opportunity to differentiate themselves as leaders in the marketplace.

Certification System

LEED is comprised of a 69-point rating system covering 6 topic areas. Certification points are earned for building attributes considered environmentally beneficial.

- **Sustainable Sites** (14 possible points)
Purpose: to avoid development of inappropriate sites and reduce the environmental impact of site location.
- **Water Efficiency** (5 possible points)
Purpose: to design buildings which minimize the use of potable water and maximize overall water efficiency.
- **Energy & Atmosphere** (17 possible points)
Purpose: to utilize energy-efficient design, CFC-free refrigerants and renewable green energy.
- **Materials & Resources** (13 possible points)
Purpose: to reduce waste generation, extend the use of existing building materials and conserve resources.
- **Indoor Environmental Quality** (15 possible points)
Purpose: to establish indoor air quality performance measures.
- **Innovation & Design Process** (5 possible points)
Purpose: to provide recognition of innovative designs or systems that lead to exceptional building performance above the existing guidelines.

LEED differs from other rating systems in that it has quantified most of the “green credits.” For example, one point may be earned under the Materials & Resources credit if 50% of a building’s wood components (including flooring) are certified in accordance with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

LEED projects earn points during the certification process and can then be awarded one of four certification levels:

Certified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum. Designers can pick and choose the credits most appropriate to their project to achieve a rating.

- **Certified:** 26 to 32 points
- **Silver:** 33 to 38 points
- **Gold:** 39 to 51 points
- **Platinum:** 52 points or more

There are over 200 buildings that have been certified with the USGBC as LEED buildings. Many developers, particularly those working on federal/state government and leading-edge private sector buildings, are requiring that building designs meet LEED Silver performance. Given that conventional new buildings would likely score only a few LEED points, achievement of any LEED level represents a significant reduction in building environmental impact and improvement of indoor environment.

The Nydree Group and LEED

The following is some Nydree-specific information which may be of assistance to customers who are pursuing project certification.

Materials & Resources Section

Credit 1.3 – Building Reuse: Requires the reuse of existing interior non-structural elements (including floor coverings).

Choosing long lasting, durable Nydree flooring can help attain this credit.

Credit 4.1 – 10% Recycled Content: Credit is given for the use of products that are manufactured using recycled materials; recycled materials must constitute at least 10% of the project's total material value (calculated by taking the total of post-consumer materials plus half of pre-consumer materials and dividing it by the total materials cost). The total materials cost excludes mechanical, electrical and plumbing components and specialty items such as elevators.

Gammapar's Americana Collection is made up of 23% reclaimed face veneer, a post-consumer component.

Credit 4.2 – 20% Recycled Content: A point in addition to Credit 4.1; the total of all materials must constitute at least 20% using the same calculation.

Please see Credit 4.1 above.

Credit 6 – Rapidly Renewable Materials: A point is awarded for utilizing rapidly renewable materials (made from plants that are typically harvested within a ten-year cycle or shorter). In order to receive this credit, the products

must equal 2.5% of the total value of all project building materials.

Bamboo, an outstanding rapidly renewable resource, is offered in the Nydree Group's Gammapar line (Gamma BamaBoo collection – bamboo component = 23%).

Credit 7 – Certified Wood: Incentives for the use of wood products certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), the international non-profit association whose members work in partnership to improve forest management practices worldwide.

The Nydree Group is proud to be a certified chain-of-custody member of the FSC (chain-of-custody number SW-COC-1039). Customers need to request FSC certified wood on all documentation pertaining to Nydree Group flooring purchases in order to protect their eligibility for this credit.

Indoor Environmental Quality Section

Credit 4.1 – Low-Emitting Materials-Adhesives & Sealants: All adhesives and sealants need to comply with low VOC content limits.

UP-28™, the recommended adhesive for all Gammapar products, contains a negligible level of VOC's (< 100 g/L, the certification limit).

Credit 4.4 – Low-Emitting Materials-Composite Wood & Agrifiber Products: Reward for using wood products with no added urea-formaldehyde resins.

No additional urea-formaldehyde resins are used in the manufacture of Gammapar's Olympia, Americana, Jefferson, or Exotics collections, or subcomponents thereof.

Credit 5 – Indoor Chemical & Pollutant Source Control: Recognition for minimizing the exposure of building occupants to potentially hazardous pollutant sources.

An antimicrobial agent is found in Nydree's UP-28™ flooring adhesive, as well as all products with a urethane finish. Its inclusion inhibits the growth of bacteria, mold, mildew and fungus.

UP-28 contains zero percent calculated NCO (Nitrogen Carbon triple bonded to Oxygen, which is a measurement of how much residual isocyanate is left in a product after manufacture). People can become allergic to isocyanate after prolonged exposure, but this risk is non-existent with UP-28.

All information included in this document is communicated solely as interpreted by the Nydree Group's Marketing Department and in no way attempts to represent the opinion of the United States Green Building Council. Nydree Group strongly recommends that a LEED Accredited Professional be involved, beginning with project conception, in all aspects of building and certification processes.

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