

# COMPLYING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS



Working together to help you achieve your sustainability ambitions

## Understanding what paints and colours to specify on projects that need to comply with environmental standards can be confusing at best.

This summary document is designed to help you achieve a quality decorative finish whilst complying with environmental assessment methods.

## COMPLYING WITH GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS

Green building standards such as BREEAM and LEED help to reduce the environmental impact of buildings, and are important methods for assessing and rating the overall sustainability of a building.



### BREEAM

The Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) is the most popular green building standard in the UK being used on about one third of new construction projects in the UK. BREEAM for New Construction (UK version) has recently been updated.

In the revised version there are new, more stringent requirements for paints in the Health and Wellbeing section. In order to gain the credits for 'Hea 02 Indoor Air Quality' the following requirements need to be met for paints and coatings:

1. VOC content must be below the limits specified in the standard (effectively means that only water-based paints are allowed for trim).
2. VOC emissions limits must be met and testing certificates provided.
3. An additional credit is available for exemplary products which meet the criteria for very low emissions.

Additional credits are also available for products with Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) in Mat 01.

### LEED v4

Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) is essentially the US equivalent of BREEAM and is used in the UK particularly on projects for US companies. The following credits in LEED V4 are applicable to paints:

1. Indoor Environmental Quality (EQ) – Low-Emitting Materials requires that paint meet specific limits for VOC content. For projects outside of the US, LEED stipulates that the European Decopaint Directive (2004/42/CE) can be used for compliance. All Dulux Trade paint products fully comply with the European Decopaint Directive.

This section also requires paints to meet the limits of VOC emissions certifications listed in the standard – this requirement is stricter than the BREEAM equivalent. See 'VOC Content and Emissions' table.

2. Materials and Resources (MR) – credits are available for products that have EPDs.



### Ska Rating

The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) maintains an environmental assessment tool for sustainable fit-outs called the SKA Rating scheme. The scheme awards one point to products with externally certified EPDs (see EPD section over page).



### AkzoNobel

## WHY VOC EMISSIONS TESTING?

In previous versions of BREEAM and LEED the focus was solely on VOC content of paints – so why has this now shifted to VOC emissions and what is the difference?

1. VOC content only tells us about what is in the can and not how VOCs emit from the paint once it is on a wall.
2. Not all VOCs are emitted from a painted surface at the same rate.
3. VOC emissions give a more accurate picture of how paint affects indoor air quality.
4. Testing is required to measure the VOC emissions of paints – this is an expensive and lengthy process for paint manufacturers.

## WATER-BASED PAINTS

Using water-based paints for wood and metal instead of traditional solvent-based paints is now a requirement for BREEAM, LEED and WELL. They have the following sustainability benefits:

1. Improved Indoor Air Quality vs solvent-based.
2. Reduced Greenhouse Gas Emissions that contribute to climate change.
3. Positively impacts painter wellbeing with lower odour too!



Our Quick Dry range has undergone emissions testing and meets the requirements of both LEED V4 and BREEAM.

## VOC CONTENT AND EMISSIONS

PRODUCT	BREEAM	BREEAM EXEMPLARY	LEED
DT Fast Matt	Pass	Pass	TBC
DT Supermatt	Pass	TBC	TBC
DT Vinyl Matt	TBC	TBC	Pass
DT Durable Flat Matt	Pass	Fail	TBC
DT Diamond Matt	TBC	TBC	Pass
DT Wood Primer Undercoat	Pass	Pass	Pass
DT Super Grip Primer	Pass	Pass	Pass
DT Dry Wall Primer Sealer	Pass	Pass	Fail
DT QD Undercoat	Pass	Pass	Pass
DT QD Satinwood	Pass	Pass	Pass
DT QD Gloss	Pass	Pass	Pass
DT Diamond Satinwood	Pass	Pass	TBC

Note 1 – additional products undergoing testing. Note 2 – products with a pass grade under 'BREEAM' comply with stipulations for VOC content, Formaldehyde, TVOCs and Carcinogens and under 'BREEAM Exemplary' they also comply with the additional requirement for TSVOCs

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## THE WELL BUILDING STANDARD

The Well Building Standard differs from environmental assessment methods such as BREEAM, LEED and Ska in that its central premise is the concept that health and wellbeing of individuals should be the central focus that guides the design and development of the buildings.



### Air 04. Air Quality

#### Part 1: Interior Paints

- Guidance – For projects in the UK, products that adhere to the low emissions requirements of BREEAM (see over page) are deemed to meet the requirements of Air 04 Part 1 for paint.

### Air 11. Fundamental Material Safety

#### Part 1: Asbestos and Lead Restriction

- No Lead in Dulux Trade products

### Light 59. Surface Design

#### Part 1: Working and Learning Area Surface Reflectivity

- Ceilings must have an average LRV of 0.8 (80%) or more for at least 80% of surface area in regularly
- Walls must have an average LRV of 0.7 (70%) or more for at least 50% of surface area directly visible from regularly occupied spaces.

### Fitness 64. Interior Fitness Circulation

#### Part 3: Facilitative Aesthetics

- Attractive use of colour in communal spaces:
  1. Artwork
  2. Decorative painting



## RESPONSIBLE SOURCING

For clients seeking assurance that the products used on their buildings have been managed responsibly from the mining of raw materials, through to manufacture and processing, Dulux Trade has successfully achieved the BES 6001 Responsible Sourcing accreditation for all products manufactured in the Stowmarket manufacturing site (first paint manufacturer to do so).

This encompasses all core emulsions including Dulux Trade Vinyl Matt and Diamond Matt amongst others.



## ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION

EPDs are comprehensive, internationally harmonised reports describing the environmental impact of products across their life cycle.



23 commonly used Dulux Trade products have EPDs which can be found on, and the EPDs downloaded from [www.duluxtradepaintexpert.co.uk](http://www.duluxtradepaintexpert.co.uk)