

# How to Use GreenScreen® for LEED v4



## Frequently Asked Questions

### PRODUCT INVENTORY FAQs

**1) With the absence of quality information on an SDS, how can a certifier audit constituent ingredients to 100 ppm?**

It is the responsibility of the manufacturer to gather data from the supply chain to the required thresholds if it is not listed on the SDS. Manufacturers can also hire a Consultant or Licensed GreenScreen Profiler to gather this data. Certifiers will look at the submitted Manufacturer's Product Inventory to determine if all chemicals are listed at or above 100 ppm. If not all are listed, then the product does not comply.

**2) Are residuals considered for the Manufacturer Inventory (like in HPD)?**

If residuals are present in the final product at or above 1000 ppm, then reporting the CASRNs is required for the Material Ingredient credit.

**3) Do Benchmark-1 residual monomers below 100 ppm disqualify a non-Benchmark-1 polymer?**

No, substances below 100 ppm of the product do not require assessment for the LEED v4 points. However, the GreenScreen method itself requires the concentration of residual monomers and catalysts be reported and screened against the GreenScreen List Translator even if they are below 100 ppm of the product.

**4) For Option 1 reporting, do you know if the ingredients' exact percentage has to be reported or can it be reported as a range of values?**

A reasonable range of values is acceptable if it can be determined that the threshold has been met. It should be noted that exact values are always encouraged. If an ingredient's concentration range may result in exceeding the inventory threshold then it should be included in the inventory. For verification of compliance with LEED v4, third-party certifiers need exact values.

**5) For Option 1 reporting, what if the entire composition of the proprietary ingredient has hazards? That would essentially disclose the composition of the ingredient.**

Only general hazard information is required (e.g. LT-1, carcinogen). As there are numerous chemicals that could result in the same general hazard information, this would not disclose the composition of the proprietary ingredient.

**6) What recommendations might be offered when a product normally contains 1-5% of customizable materials—is there a method to circumvent minimum reporting requirements to achieve optimization, based on that inherent variability?**

The recommendation would be to list the materials in your product in a way that covers a product containing all possible combinations of the materials added. The goal is to capture the CASRN and/or hazards of the chemical substances used to make a product.

**7. If a product is made up of many little parts (e.g., electric components, screws, etc.) that we buy from suppliers, will we be able to gather enough information to comply?**

The first step would be to generate a list of all the unique homogeneous materials (noting tradenames and suppliers) used to make the product. A Consultant or GreenScreen Licensed Profiler can be hired to retrieve the confidential chemical substances at or above the threshold. Alternatively, the substance may be considered a UVCB and expected ranges of known substances may be used.

## **CHEMICAL HAZARD ASSESSMENT FAQS**

**8. What is the GreenScreen List Translator score of PVC and its Benchmark?**

PVC is a base polymer with the CASRN 9002-86-2. Pharos CML offers a free trial to determine the List Translator score. It is important to remember that most polymeric materials are mixtures of many CASRNs. The chemical substances in other additives used to make the polymeric material will also need to be characterized at or above the inventory threshold. Examples would include residual monomers, colorants, catalyst, stabilizers, and plasticizers to name a few possibilities. If GreenScreen Benchmarking is carried out, transformation products of PVC are also considered, and are often hazardous.

**9. For the 100% value on the optimization credit, can there be LT-P1 chemicals or LT-UNK chemicals?**

No, you cannot have any LT-P1s, but LT-UNK substances are acceptable. LT-P1 scores mean it's a possible Benchmark-1. You must consult a GreenScreen Profiler to resolve the P1 score for each associated endpoint. As an alternative to doing a comprehensive review on all hazard endpoints, LT-P1 chemicals may have only the endpoint(s) driving the P1 classification reviewed in depth to determine if the chemical is Benchmark-1. If it is not determined to be Benchmark-1, then it is LT-UNK.

**10. Please explain the relationship between Pharos, etc. and GreenScreen.**

Pharos Chemical and Material Library (CML) offers automated software for the GreenScreen List Translator that facilitates easy lookup of a chemical and automated determination of its List Translator score.

**11. Trade secret chemicals do not provide a CASRN. How are the hazards determined?**

Hazards can only be determined using a CASRN or sometimes a chemical structure. A Consultant or a Licensed GreenScreen Profiler can be hired to attempt retrieval of information about the identity of confidential chemical substances from the supply chain. They may report out the hazards without revealing the chemical identity.

**12. Do I need to report all hazards for all endpoints found on Specified Lists within the List Translator?**

No. Only report hazards resulting in LT-1 or LT-P1 scores. If a hazard classification using GreenScreen List Translator does not result in a LT-1 or LT-P1 score then it does not need to be reported.

**13. I am using Pharos as the automation option for the GreenScreen List Translator, but I noticed that they include some lists not included in GreenScreen. What should I do?**

Only include hazards on GreenScreen Specified Lists. Other lists exist on Pharos and are not considered mandatory to report for using GreenScreen to earn this point. The Pharos output indicates which hazards are derived from GreenScreen Specified Lists and which ones result in an LT-1 or LT-P1.

**14. What about hazards that are only reported to be occupational hazards?**

Currently the GreenScreen method does not include "occupational hazard" in the 18 Human and Environmental Health hazard endpoints, and so these types of hazards do not contribute to the overall scoring (i.e., List Translator or Benchmark score).

**15. I have both a GreenScreen Benchmark score and List Translator score for the SAME chemical, which should I use?**

GreenScreen Benchmark scores always trump List Translator scores. You can use both types of scores; however, the product will only be considered to have gone through the List Translator screening level so can only be valued at 100% for a List Translator screen.

## LEED DOCUMENT SUBMITTAL FAQs

**16. I am a supplier and was asked by my customer to use the HPD format to disclose confidential ingredients and report scores. Is this all I need to provide my customer?**

Yes, as a tool for reporting, the HPD format requires all of the necessary information needed to determine if the product or ingredient can be used to earn LEED points.

**17. Who will check whether my reporting is complete?**

Third-Party certification of LEED v4 compliance guarantees accurate and complete reporting for both LEED credit options. See Step 4 in the “How to Use GreenScreen for LEED v4” guidance.

## LEED v4 COMPLIANT CERTIFICATION FAQs

**18. Does the Third-Party Certifier (compliant mark issuer) have to disclose their supporting chemical hazard assessment work?**

Third-Party Certifiers do not conduct chemical hazard assessments (i.e., generate GreenScreen Benchmark scores). Chemical hazard assessments are performed by Licensed GreenScreen Profilers.

**19. Sounds like it's possible that a Manufacturer Inventory could have GreenScreen Benchmark-1 or LT-1 ingredients and have a “GreenScreen Certified” mark on it. How will you distinguish the Option 1 (transparency only) cert from the Option 2 (optimization) cert?**

There are 3 different certification marks that clearly designate the different options: Option 1; Option 2 (100% via LT), and Option 2 (150% via GreenScreen Benchmarking).

**20. How is the cost of third party certification structured? For example, is it based on the number of items in the BOM and the depth to which information must be mined to get to 100 ppm level, or is it on a one product/one fee basis?**

It is on a per-manufacturer basis, determined by the Third-Party Certifier. It would be based on the amount of time estimated to perform the certification audit. For example, a batch formula may take less time to audit than a complex article.

**21. Who would be a typical customer of the “GreenScreen Store”?**

Manufacturers, Chemists & Engineers, Standards Organizations, Construction Industry, Architects & Designers, Institutional Purchasers, Retailers, Government, Environmental Groups & Health NGOs



Clean Production Action designs and delivers strategic solutions for green chemicals, sustainable materials and environmentally preferable products.

1310 Broadway, Suite 101, Somerville, MA 02144 • 781.391.6743  
www.cleanproduction.org • moreinfo@cleanproduction.org