



Change Request Ruling

Change Request: IAQ Checklist V1
ID #: CR-000020
Submitted By: Hayley Puppato
Submitted On: September 3, 2024
Ruling Date: November 18, 2024
Ruling: **Change Request Approved.**

Reason for Change Request and Recommended Alternative: This change request is seeking an addition to include the “Standard Method for the Testing and Evaluation of Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions from Indoor Sources Using Environmental Chambers Version 1.2” from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH Standard Method v1.2-2017) for compliance within the last point of the Mandatory IAQ Requirements. The mandatory IAQ requirement of “newly applied interior paints and painting finishes are low-VOC or no-VOC emitting products” currently requires 90% of the interior surface area to be covered by one of the allowable four third-party standards. These third[1]party standards are North American programs intended to limit human exposure to VOCs that have human health impacts. Green Seal, an approved third[1]party standard for the NZHLP IAQ requirement, defines low-VOC paints as 50-100 g/L VOCs (50g/L for flat, 100 g/L for non-flat), and no-VOC paints as 5 g/L VOCs [1]. CDPH Standard Method v1.2-2017 incorporates testing, exposure modeling, and allowable limits for VOCs, based on the chemicals of concern with Chronic Reference Exposure Levels (CREL) issued by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) [2]. The standard method splits VOCs into two metrics: target VOCs, and formaldehyde. Target VOCs allowable limits are one half of the CREL for each chemical, and formaldehyde limits are 9 µg m-3 [2]. Target VOCs and formaldehyde limits are in µg m-3, far below the low/ no-VOC targets in g/L. CDPH Standard Method v1.2-2017 is a North American standard, which is ubiquitously used by products sold in Canada. Because there are many VOC standards and certification programs, manufacturers normally don’t label their product with all the standards that they can, and only having four third-party standards to choose from for the IAQ requirement is limiting builders with their product selection. The CDPH Standard Method v1.2-2017 is used by other third-party IAQ/ VOC certification programs, including two of the four currently approved third-party standards for the NZHLP. Other green building certification programs that allow the use of CDPH Standard Method v1.2-2017 for their IAQ objectives include LEED v4.1 by USGBC [3]; Living Building Challenge by ILFI [4]; FloorScore by SCS, GREENGUARD Gold by UL, Green Label Plus by CRI, and Indoor Advantage Gold by SCS [5]. There is not a database for products tested and compliant with the CDPH Standard Method v1.2-2017, however manufacturers and suppliers usually post their CDPH compliance on their websites or send it to builders/ Energy Advisors when requested. The CDPH Standard Method v1.2-2017 meets the intent and requirements of the NZHLP IAQ requirements and serves as a backbone for many other green building/ product standards and certification programs. Including CDPH Standard Method v1.2-2017 in the list of approved VOC certification programs will increase the number of allowable products for the NZHLP, while maintaining the health and safety of those manufacturing, installing, and living in the homes where products with VOCs are used.

Additional Comments / Actions: Approved. 11 votes in favour. 0 votes not in favour

Program Participants may use the amendments once they are posted - prior to the official version update.