

September 17, 2013

RE: Building Material Content Transparency

Dear Building Material Manufacturer Representative:

Yost Grube Hall Architecture (YGH) is dedicated to producing architecture of excellence in service to our clients, society, and environment. We are committed to developing sustainable design solutions as an integral part of design excellence, and we strive to make environmentally informed building materials selections based on transparent product research and analysis.

YGH's efforts toward building materials transparency and building health

At YGH, we strive to provide the healthiest possible environments for both the people who construct the facilities we design as well as for the occupants and visitors who will use those buildings. In this effort, we have developed various databases and researched several sources for transparent and fact-based information on products and materials. As a team, we strive to choose materials that are beautiful, durable and appropriate while delivering healthier buildings for the occupants and the ecosystems in which they exist.

Product manufacturers play a vital role in this endeavor

We are asking for you to share information about your products' contents and their associated health information. There is an easy way to do that: The **Health Product Declaration (HPD) Open Standard** is an easy-to-reference format that has been developed to be the industry standard for conveying details about product content and health impacts. The HPD Standard provides a common language, which ultimately levels the playing field for you. The Health Product Declaration helps manufacturers communicate product data in a consistent manner so that firms like YGH can make fully informed decisions when specifying building products.

Completing a Health Product Declaration is easy

The Health Product Declaration Open Standard is freely available for your use from the HPD Collaborative. You can find the HPD and resources to assist you at www.hpdcollaborative.org. We urge you to complete and publish an HPD for each of your products.

A complete HPD assesses the individual contents of a product against authoritative chemical hazard lists, provides details of third-party product testing and compliance for emissions, and notes accessory installation materials. The HPD is already recognized in the marketplace: it can be used to demonstrate compliance with The Living Building Challenge Red List; fulfill the reporting requirements of the anticipated LEED v4 Material Disclosure and Optimization credit; inform the International Living Future Institute's Declare label; and respond to building owners' interests to protect their occupants from hazardous materials.

The HPD is designed to function as a complement to the Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) protocol that facilitates the consistent development and reporting of flows of energy, carbon, water and other pollutants from product Life Cycle Assessments (LCA) and characterizes related environmental impacts. Other product labels and certification programs

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are also referencing the HPD to co-ordinate the requirements of their tools with this open standard.

Positioning yourself as a leader in product transparency and innovation

As the need for transparency in the products we select and specify on behalf of our clients continues to grow, we will give preference to manufacturers that provide this information. Within two years, we will begin to phase out products that do not include reporting on content through HPDs. One way for you to pull ahead of market competition is to complete HPDs for your products now.

Our hope is to integrate the comprehensive health and environmental product information provided by complete HPDs and EPDs into our daily practice. Working together, we can truly enhance the human experience of our built environment, enrich the health of building occupants, and protect the environment.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,



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