

Green PRODUCTS using “transparency documents”



To learn more
on risk management when
working with transparency,
download this:

- [https://
www.architecturalrecord.
com/ext/resources/
Issues/2016/June/
continuing-education/
aiab108448.pdf](https://www.architecturalrecord.com/ext/resources/Issues/2016/June/continuing-education/aiab108448.pdf).

Information in this module
is taken from the
document cited above.

PRODUCT CONTENTS

- TRANSPARENCY as used in this module consists of the disclosure of substances and materials in building products that are potentially hazardous to our health and the environment. This information is found in the so called “**transparency documents**” such as Health Product Declarations, “Declare” labels, certifications, and other documents that list the components of a product.
- Architects may be required to read these documents, specially when designing with the intention of having the project be LEED certified or when required by the local authorities through building codes - CalGreen, for example.

CLAIMS and TRANSPARENCY

- Claims relating to transparency can originate in different ways, for example, a building occupant develops a health condition and claims that it was caused by a product used in the building and that the architect was aware of its hazards because it was documented in a disclosure document that the architect reviewed.
- The prevention of this type of claims is handled through the following:
 - Best Practices;
 - Insurance;
 - Communications;
 - Contract Language.
- Damages for personal injury are much larger than those related to the design or construction of a building, so having the right insurance is very important.
- Keep the Owner informed on how the information on transparency affects the selection of materials, and how the information is obtained.
- TO ensure that the Owner understands that the architect is not responsible for verifying the manufacturer's report, add this to the Owner-RMW contract: “RMW must be able to rely on the declarations made by manufacturers...and does not take responsibility for such declarations.”
- Even though manufacturers are ultimately liable for the products they produce, they might not always be there to respond in case of claims, for example, if the manufacturer is not in business anymore or is otherwise unreachable, however, the architect is still liable.

SAFETY DATA SHEETS

Safety Data Sheets (formerly MSDS) are written by the manufacturers of products that are or contain hazardous materials. The information on SDS is intended for the protection of the contractors while working with the labeled product. SDS **do not** contain the same information found in transparency documents.

ALWAYS avoid introducing SDS in your documentation and in your communications, since the information they contain addresses “ways and means”.

Example of a “Declare” label.

Declare.

TEKNOFLOR® Naturescapes HPD™ Shannon Specialty Floors

Final Assembly: Detmold, Germany

Life Expectancy: Commercial - 12 Years,
Residential - 20 Years

End of Life Options: Take Back Program (100%)

Ingredients:

Polymer: Polyurethane; **Filler:** Calcium Carbonate, Zeolite; **Flame Retardant:** Aluminium Hydroxide; **Additives and Decor Paper Dyes:** Undisclosed (0.5-1.0%); **Foam Regulator:** White Oil; **Nonwoven:** Polypropylene, Polyester, Glass; **Decor Paper:** Cellulose; **Decor Paper Filler:** Kaolin; **Decor Paper Pigment:** Titanium Dioxide

¹LBC Temp Exception I10-E4 Proprietary Ingredients <1%

Living Building Challenge Criteria:

SSF-0003
VOC Content: N/A

EXP. 01 MAY 2019
VOC Emissions: CDPH Compliant

**Third Party
Verified** ✓

Declaration Status:

- ☐ LBC Red List Free
- ☒ LBC Compliant
- ☐ Declared

MANUFACTURER CLAIMS VERIFIED BY WAP Sustainability
INTERNATIONAL LIVING FUTURE INSTITUTE™ declareproducts.com