Chad M. Lipscomb, PE, CPESC
Director, Technical Services
Western Excelsior Corporation
PO Box 270308, Fort Collins, CO 80527
970-631-8366 Phone
303-845-8649 Fax
chad@westernexcelsior.com

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RE: Western Excelsior Products Information for LEED Credit Evaluation

To Whom it May Concern:

This document has been drafted to serve as a general and brief summary of the LEED program, a guide to the potential incorporation of Western Excelsior products into LEED applications and provide certified information for Western Excelsior products. The information contained herein regarding the explanation and summary of the LEED system and the potential application of Western Excelsior products within the LEED framework is provided for informational purposes only. Western Excelsior has provided this information as a service and cannot guarantee its accuracy. Specific information regarding the LEED program and LEED credits should be obtained from www.usgbc.com. However, provided herein are certified properties of Western Excelsior materials for input into computations for LEED credit application.

LEED Introduction

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standard for environmentally sustainable construction and maintenance of homes and facilities is sponsored by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and is maintained to allow for contractors, developers and owners to certify the sustainability of a project with respect to an independent standard. The system awards credits for various components of design and construction, proportional to the positive impact of the practice. Credits are awarded based on specifications outlined by USGBC in the current LEED program (LEED 3). LEED certification is based on the number of credits a project accumulates, with a hierarchy of achievement levels. Generally, the objective of the program is to reduce the overall impact of construction projects by minimizing:

- Transportation of Materials
- Disturbance of Land and Habitat
- Pollution
- Consumption of Long-Cycle and Non-Renewable Materials
- Consumption of Energy
- Consumption of Water

Projects are categorized into a series of classes. LEED standards for awarding credits are specific for each class (i.e. an independent standards document governs each class). Applicants are awarded points based on the standards within the appropriate class for the project. These classes include:

- New Construction
- Existing Buildings: Operations and Maintenance
- Commercial Interiors
- Core and Shell
- Schools
- Retail
- Healthcare
- Homes
- Neighborhood Development

Within each class, standards are categorized into sections. Each section covers a specific aspect of the construction/operation of the project, the type of practices that are awarded credits, and the governance of credit awarding. Specifically, sections within each class include:

- Sustainable Sites (SS)
- Water Efficiency (WE)
- Energy and Atmosphere (EA)
- Materials and Resources (MR)
- Indoor Environmental Quality (IQ)
- Innovation in Design (ID)
- Regional Priority (RP)

Thus, under New Construction, points may be awarded for beneficial practices with respect to Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources, Indoor Environmental Quality and Innovation in Design. Similarly, points may be awarded for any of the other classes for each section.

Projects are awarded credits based on the application of the contractor, developer or owner. Manufacturers of construction materials may assist and support in the application for LEED certification by providing certified product specific properties.

Western Excelsior and LEED

Western Excelsior manufactures a series of erosion and sediment control products that contribute both directly and indirectly for credit. For instance, as an example of an indirect contribution, planting native vegetation is awarded credit and Western Excelsior Erosion Control Blankets (ECBs) and Mulch can assist in the establishment of the vegetation. As an example of direct contribution, many of Western Excelsior materials are completely degradable, consist of mostly pre-consumer recycled content or rapidly renewable content and can be considered local within 500 miles of the manufacturing plant of origin. Table 1 presents a summary of all of the categories that Western Excelsior products contribute to LEED credit award both indirectly and directly.

Table 1 – Summary of LEED Contributions for Western Excelsior Products

Class	Section	Name	Points
New Construction	SS Prereq 1	Construction Activity Pollution Prevention	N/A
	SS 5.1	Site Development, Protect or Restore Habitat	1
	SS 5.2	Site Development, Maximize Open Space	1
	SS 6.1	Stormwater Design, Quantity Control	1
	SS 6.2	Stormwater Design, Quality Control	1
	SS 7.2	Heat Island Effect, Roof	1
	WE 1	Water Efficient Landscaping	1
	WE 2	Inoovative Wastewater Technologies	1
	MR 4.1	Recycled Content, 10%	1
	MR 4.2	Recycled Content, 20%	1
	MR 5.1	Regional Materials, 10%	1
	MR 5.2	Regional Materials, 20%	1
	MR 6	Rapidly Renewable Materials	1
Existing Buildings: Operations and Maintenance	SS 3	Integrated Pest Management, Erosion Control and Landscaping Management Plan	1
	SS 5	Reduced Site Disturbance, Protect or Restore Open Space	1
	SS 6	Stormwater Management	1
	SS 7.2	Heat Island Reduction, Roof	1
	WE 3	Water Efficient Landscaping	1-3
Core and Shell	SS Prereq 1	Construction Activity Pollution Prevention	N/A
	SS 5.1	Site Development, Protect or Restore Habitat	1
	SS 5.2	Site Development, Maximize Open Space	1
	SS 6.1	Stormwater Design, Quantity Control	1
	SS 6.2	Stormwater Design, Quality Control	1
	SS 7.2	Heat Island Effect, Roof	1
	WE 1	Water Efficient Landscaping	1-2
	WE 2	Innovative Wastewater Technologies	1
	MR 4.1	Recycled Content, 10%	1
	MR 4.2	Recycled Content, 20%	1
	MR 5.1	Regional Materials, 10%	1
	MR 5.2	Regional Materials, 20%	1
Schools	SS Prereq 1	Construction Activity Pollution Prevention	N/A
	SS 5.1	Site Development, Protect or Restore Habitat	1
	SS 5.2	Site Development, Maximize Open Space	1
	SS 6.1	Stormwater Design, Quantity Control	1
	SS 6.2	Stormwater Design, Quality Control	1
	SS 7.2	Heat Island Effect, Roof	1
	WE 1	Water Efficient Landscaping	1-2
	WE 2	Innovative Wastewater Technologies	1
	MR 4.1	Recycled Content, 10%	1
	MR 4.2	Recycled Content, 20%	1
	MR 5.1	Regional Materials, 10%	1
	MR 5.2	Regional Materials, 20%	1
	MR 6	Rapidly Renewable Materials	1
Homes	SS 1.1	Site Stewardship, Erosion Controls During Construction	N/A
	SS 2.1	Landscaping, No Invasive Plants	1
	SS 2.2	Landscaping, Basic Landscape Design	2
	SS 2.3	Landscaping, Limit Conventional Turf	1-3
	SS 2.4	Landscaping, Drought-Tolerant Plants	1-2
	SS 2.5	Landscaping, Reduce Overall Irrigation Demand by at Least 20%	2-6
	SS 4.1	Surface Water Management, Permeable Lot	1-4
	SS 4.2	Surface Water Management, Permanent Erosion Controls	1
	SS 4.3	Surface Water Management, Management of Runoff From Roof	1.5-2
	WE 2.3	Irrigation System	1-4

Certified LEED Information for Western Excelsior Products

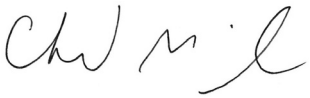
Western Excelsior cannot determine the appropriate LEED credits for any particular project. Further Western Excelsior cannot guarantee the acceptability of Western Excelsior products or information by a LEED reviewer. However, Western Excelsior products are manufactured by means and consist of properties that may result in LEED credit award. The following information is provided as certified information from Western Excelsior:

- Degradable ECBs[1] and Sediment Control Logs are >95% Rapidly Renewable by Weight
- Degradable ECBs[1] are Completely Degradable
- All Natural ECBs[2] are Completely Bio-degradable
- 100% Aspen Mulch consists of 100% Pre-Consumer Recycled Material
- Aspen Turbo Mulch consists of 60% Pre-Consumer and 40% Post-Consumer Recycled Material
- Manufacturing Locations in Mancos, CO and Macon, GA (For Determination of Local Region)

[1] Degradable ECBs include: Excel SR-1, Excel SS-2, Excel R-1, Excel S-1, Excel R-2, Excel S-2, Excel CS-3, Excel SD-3 and Excel CC-4, Regular and Rapid Go varieties.
[2] All Natural ECBs are designated with the nomenclature *All Natural* on the packaging and documentation and consist of jute/scrim netting and cotton thread.

For more detailed or further information, please feel free to contact me directly.

Regards,



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