

GREEN BUILDING



Introducing the ICC-ES SAVE Program

The last several years have seen a remarkable increase in the number of environmental claims made with respect to building products, components, methods and materials. Some of these claims are valid while others may be “greenwashing”: deliberate attempts to mislead consumers into believing products or services are more environmentally friendly than they really are. This has led to rising demand from code officials, design professionals, builders and consumers for reliable information about the sustainability of building products and materials.

To meet that need, the ICC Evaluation Service, Inc. (ICC-ES) has drawn on its expertise and status as a globally recognized product evaluation entity to create the Sustainable Attributes Verification and Evaluation (SAVE) program. Participants in the program have the opportunity to earn confirmation that their products are sustainable. They also may qualify for credits under major green ratings systems including the ICC/National Association of Home Builders *National Green Building Standard*, the U.S. Green Building Council LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating system and the Green Building Initiative Green Globes system.

Reflecting the Code Council’s commitment to fostering activities for sustainable design and construction, SAVE supplies reliable, third-party verified information on sustainable attributes in a clear and consistent format. SAVE guidelines were developed through careful analysis of existing green product declaration and certification programs, state environmental requirements, industry test methods, and other documentation. Evaluations involve inspection of a manufacturer’s production



processes and reviews of independent product testing. Products that successfully pass SAVE evaluation are eligible to receive a Verification of Attributes Report (VAR) and SAVE mark in any of nine categories.

- **Recycled content.** Evaluates building products that incorporate recycled content. Reports will verify and report the amount and type of recycled content materials used in production of the product for the report subject.
- **Regional materials.** Evaluates materials and products that are extracted and manufactured within the region. Reports will provide information on raw material extraction and manufacturing locations.
- **Bio-based materials.** Evaluates materials and products that are produced from or composed of biological products or renewable domestic agricultural materials or forestry materials. Reports will verify and provide information on the type and amount of bio-based content.
- **Certified wood products.** Evaluates solid wood and wood-based products to verify that the source of the wood originates from forests that are subject to environmentally responsible forest management. Reports will verify the wood source, certification scheme and chain of custody.
- **Solar reflectance index and thermal emittance of roofing materials.** Evaluates roof coverings to verify their radiative properties based on the results of testing. Report will verify and provide information on both the solar reflectance index and thermal emissivity values of the roofing product.
- **Volatile organic compound (VOC) content of adhesives and sealants.** Evaluates the type and amount of VOC content and emissions of adhesives and sealants based on the results of testing. Reports will verify and provide information on the type and amount of VOC emissions.
- **VOC content of paints and coatings.** Similar to the evaluation of the VOCs of adhesives and sealants, this category evaluates the type and amount of VOC content and emissions of paints and coatings based on the results of testing.
- **Urea formaldehyde resin content in composite wood products.** Evaluates the level of formaldehyde emissions in composite wood products and engineered wood products based on the results of testing and chemical formulation. Reports will state whether formaldehyde is present, the emission rate and the method used.

- **VOC emissions of floor coverings.** Evaluates the type and amount of VOC and emissions of floor covering products based on the results of testing. Reports will verify and provide information on the type and amount of VOC emissions.

ICC-ES will maintain a list of products evaluated by SAVE in a Directory of Reports available at www.saveprogram.icc-es.org/reports. Manufacturers wishing to have their construction products or systems evaluated under the SAVE program can view the application details at www.saveprogram.icc-es.org/app.

The new ICC-ES SAVE program provides trusted, independent verification of products' green and sustainable attributes. A SAVE report gives manufacturers proof they can show their customers that the sustainability of their product is indeed verified, a significant advantage in an increasingly competitive marketplace. Code officials and consumers can count on SAVE to affirm that truly green building products are being used in their communities. ♦