

February 3, 2015

RE: PRODUCT CONTENT TRANSPARENCY

To Whom it May Concern,

Lake|Flato Architects is dedicated to making informed decisions regarding the building materials used in our projects. Product selection is a complex process. We must consider factors of aesthetics, performance, maintenance, cost, life cycle impact, product composition, and emissions. To understand how our decisions affect human health and the environment, we are asking for you to share information about product contents and their associated health hazards.

The Health Product Declaration Open Standard (HPD) is an easy-to-reference standard format that systematizes reporting language to enable the consistent disclosure of building product content and associated health information. It 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 make publicly available, an HPD for each of your products.

A complete HPD includes accurate product content and related health hazard information in a consistent way that allows us to make better choices. It assesses the individual constituents 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. Other product labels and certification programs are also referencing the HPD to harmonize the requirements of their tools with this open standard.

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. Our expected schedule for the manufacturer representatives to submit their products to Declare and HPDs to our office is as follows:

1. January 1, 2015: All lunch and learn presentations must present an HPD or Declare link for the product or material they are referencing in the presentation.
2. January 1, 2016: Products or materials with HPDs and/or Declare links will be required by Lake|Flato for use in specifications.

These statements replace Lake|Flato's previous goals:

- March 1, 2014: Manufacturers that have submitted HPDs and/or Declare links to Lake|Flato Architects will be given preferred status to present their products at lunch and learns.
- January 1, 2015: Manufacturers that have submitted HPDs and/or Declare links to Lake|Flato will be given preferred status for use in specifications.

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 assistance.

Sincerely,
The Lake|Flato Team