



TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

## BULLETIN

No. 98  
January 2010

### Building Wire and Cable and the LEED Rating System

LEED stands for "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design". It is a green building certification system administered by the US Green Building Council, and assigns points to buildings based on meeting prescribed criteria. Energy efficiency is an important part of the LEED rating system; it primarily focuses on thermal efficiency of the building envelope, lighting and plug load efficiency and control, heating and cooling efficiency and renewable energy systems. Plumbing, mechanical and electrical systems are excluded from nearly all of the Material and Resources credits. Electrical systems include all building wire and cable products.

The following addresses specific sections in the LEED Green Building Rating System for New Construction (LEED-NC):

1. Building wire and cable products cannot help qualify for credits in any of the "Sustainable Sites" (SS Credits) or "Water Efficiency" (WE Credits) sections.
2. Mechanical, electrical and plumbing components are specifically excluded from the calculations for the "Materials Reuse" (MR Credit 3.1), "Recycled Content" (MR Credit 4.1) and "Regional Materials" (MR Credit 5.1).
3. Building wire and cable products are not included in Indoor Environmental Quality (EQ Credit 4) evaluations which include:
  - a. EQ Credit 4.1 applies to Adhesives & Sealants,
  - b. EQ Credit 4.2 applies to Paints & Coatings,
  - c. EQ Credit 4.3 applies to Carpet Systems,
  - d. EQ Credit 4.4 applies to Wood & Agrifiber,

4. Building wire and cable products may be submitted for Innovation in Design. Contact the specific manufacturer of the product you are using for the project to discuss opportunities for points from within this section.

Building wire and cable manufacturers continue to reduce their impact on the environment by generating less waste, increasing manufacturing efficiencies and reducing or eliminating substances of concern. Today, these efforts to minimize the environmental footprint that our products leave behind are not taken into account in the LEED rating system.

**Distribution List:**

Standards and Conformity Assessment Policy Committee

Codes and Standards Committee

NEMA Technical Services Department