

July 31, 2013

Dear Product Manufacturer:

GGLO, is a +100 person interdisciplinary design firm focused on improving the relationship between people and place. Urban Designers, Landscape Architects, Architects and Interior Designers work across scales and project types to create holistic neighborhoods, blocks, buildings, and public places. Our design expands and enhances the human experience, and we are 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.

We urge you to complete, and make publicly available, a Health Product Declaration (HPD) for each of your products by:

- Uploading each HPD to your company website
- Logging a hyperlink to completed HPD information on the HPD Collaborative website
- Notifying GGLO when those two steps have been completed

The **HPD Open Standard** is an easy-to-reference standard format for disclosing building product content and associated health information; it systematizes reporting language to enable consistent reports. 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.

A complete HPD includes accurate product content and related health hazard information in a consistent way, which allows GGLO 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 recently approved LEED v4 Material Disclosure and Optimization credit; inform the International Living Future Institute's **Declare** label; and respond to building owners' interests in protecting their occupants from hazardous materials.

The HPD is designed to function as a complement to the **Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)** protocol that facilitates the consistent development and reporting of flows of energy, carbon, water and other pollutants from product Life Cycle Assessments (LCA), and characterizes related environmental impacts. Other product labels and certification programs are also referencing the HPD to harmonize their requirements 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. This will include:

- By 12/31/14 – Inviting manufacturers to promote their product or offer educational sessions within the GGLO office, if they meet one of the following criteria:
 - An HPD is publicly available for each of the manufacturer's products.
 - A plan which indicates a date before 12/31/15 in which an HPD for each of the manufacturer's products will be made publicly available.
- By 12/31/16 – Beginning to phase out products that do not include HPD reporting

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,

GGLO



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Principal, Director of Sustainability

