

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN THIRD-PARTY RATING OF HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

1. ISSUE: On January 1, 2012, the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI) began requiring that all new construction and major renovation projects seeking LEED certification for inpatient, outpatient, or long-term care facilities must use the LEED for Healthcare rating system.

2. BACKGROUND: The VA [Sustainable Design and Energy Reduction Manual](#) (April 2010) requires major construction projects to achieve a third-party green building certification of at least LEED Silver or two Green Globes.

VA commissioned a study to determine the impact of USGBC's new requirement on VA's construction program. The study compared LEED for Health Care (LEED HC) to LEED for New Construction (LEED NC) and determined that there will be little impact to cost or effort when using LEED HC in lieu of LEED NC. (1)

Projects using the Green Building Initiative's (GBI) Green Globes rating system will not be affected.

3. NEW STANDARD: All VA healthcare projects registering for LEED certification after January 1, 2012, must use the LEED for Healthcare rating system if the facility meets the definition of a healthcare facility in USGBC's [Rating System Selection Guidance](#) and must achieve the credits shown in Figure 1 of this alert.

Healthcare projects using Green Globes will continue using the Green Globes rating system applicable to that particular project.

Non-healthcare facility project teams will continue to evaluate their projects using LEED or Green Globes criteria to determine the appropriate rating system for their project.

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REFERENCES:

1. HDR Architecture, Inc. *Sustainability Requirements Analysis Report*. January 2012.

ALERT

