
2. BACKGROUND: VA is required by Executive Order 13423 to comply with the 2006 Guiding Principles for Federal Leadership in High Performance and Sustainable Buildings (Guiding Principles). The Guiding Principles encourage the use of total building commissioning as a means by which to improve building performance and enhance sustainability.

VA adopted whole building commissioning as a standard practice and requires its use on projects costing more than $5M, with details outlined in the VA Whole Building Commissioning Process Manual.

3. STANDARD: To comply with the sustainable design and construction requirements of Executive Order 13423, VA projects must follow the requirements outlined in the VA Whole Building Commissioning Process Manual.

In particular, the following requirements must be met: 1) Projects costing more than $5M require commissioning, and 2) Commissioning Agents (CxA) must be involved in a project no later than the Pre-Design Phase.

In addition, all projects pursuing third-party green building certification under the Green Globes program must achieve Credit 6.3, “Whole Building Commissioning,” and projects pursuing certification under LEED must achieve Energy & Atmosphere Prerequisite 1 “Fundamental Commissioning of Building Energy Systems” and Energy & Atmosphere Credit 3 “Enhanced Commissioning”.

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