

UL GREENGUARD Certification

According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the average person spends 87% of their life indoors and the products used in building construction and maintenance play a significant role in the indoor air quality (IAQ) and the occupants' well-being. A variety of chemicals are used during the manufacturing process of many building products, furniture and cleaning supplies which can become airborne over time through the process of off-gassing. These airborne chemicals are generally referred to as volatile organic compounds or VOCs.

Studies by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other researchers have concluded that VOCs have greatly elevated levels in indoor environments ranging anywhere from two to thousand times more than the outdoors. There could be anywhere from 50 to hundreds of individual VOCs in interior air at any one time. Some VOCs can produce discomforting odors at low levels, but many don't have a noticeable smell. Many VOCs are considered irritants and can be the cause of headaches, eye, nose and throat irritation as well as dizziness. Long-term exposure to certain VOCs may lead to chronic diseases or cancer and in high concentrations can be toxic.

What is GREENGUARD?

UL's GREENGUARD® certification program tests the emission levels for building materials (among other product groups) which helps identify which products emit less or more VOCs and can be considered suitable for applications in spaces such as schools, offices or healthcare facilities. UL offers two tiers of certification: GREENGUARD Certification and GREENGUARD Gold Certification. Every certified product is subject to review of the manufacturing process as well as routine testing to help ensure minimal impact on the indoor environment.



GREENGUARD Gold Certification

The GREENGUARD Gold Certification is a more stringent standard that has additional criteria for total lower VOC levels while covering a wider range of chemicals certifying the use of products in schools and healthcare facilities. In addition to limiting emissions of more than 360 VOCs, GREENGUARD Gold Certified products must also comply with the requirements of the state of California's Department of Public Health (CDPH) "Standard Method for the Testing and Evaluation of Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions from Indoor Sources Using Environmental Chambers, Version 1.2 (2017)".

A summary of the allowable emission limits for GREENGUARD Gold Certification can be found here: https://www.ul.com/sites/g/files/qbfpbp306/files/2019-05/GG_VOC_tables.pdf

Alleguard Advantage

GREENGUARD Certification Standards are among the most rigorous in the world and have been the basis for the LEED credit for low-emitting furniture since 2002. UL's GREENGUARD Certification program is recognized and referenced in numerous building programs, standards and specifications around the world. Products with GREENGUARD Gold Certification can contribute to the achievement of points in established green building rating systems, such as LEED, BREEAM, Fitwel and others, and satisfy code or ordinance criteria and meet indoor air quality specific request for proposal (RFP) requirements. Alleguard has three GREENGUARD Gold Certified products, [Amvic™](#), [ICF](#), [Amdry](#) and [Thermoquiet](#), all of which contribute to a healthier and more sustainable indoor environments.