



FAQ: Development of LEED Canada NC 2009

November 3, 2009

The year 2009 has already seen the launch of two new rating systems in Canada. *LEED Canada for Homes* launched in March and *LEED Canada for Existing Buildings: Operations and Maintenance* went live in August. Many people are wondering about the anticipated update to the original LEED rating system, *LEED Canada for New Construction and Major Renovations (LEED Canada NC)*. This FAQ is intended to answer the questions most commonly asked in this regard.

When will *LEED Canada NC 2009* be available?

Registration for *LEED Canada NC 2009* will open in June 2010.

Are you updating *LEED Canada CS* as well?

Yes, *LEED Canada Core and Shell (CS) 2009* is being updated as part of the development of *LEED Canada NC 2009*. The two rating systems will be fully integrated, sharing a common Rating System document and Reference Guide.

When will *LEED Canada CS 2009* be available?

Registration will open in June 2010, at the same time as registration for *LEED Canada NC 2009*.

Will I be able to register under the current rating systems after registration for the new rating systems is opened?

No, you will not be able to register for either *LEED Canada NC 1.0* or *LEED Canada CS 1.0* after the new versions are released in June 2010.

Will I be able to switch a previously registered project to *LEED Canada NC 2009* or *LEED Canada CS 2009* after these versions are launched?

Yes, projects registered under the current versions of the rating systems will be able to switch to the new versions. Details will be provided closer to launch.

Will I be able to use *LEED Canada 2009* pathways for a previously registered project without fully upgrading to new products?

Yes, projects registered under the current versions of the rating systems will be able to use some pathways from *LEED Canada NC 2009* and *LEED Canada CS 2009* without fully upgrading to the new rating systems. A table of allowed substitutions will be provided closer to launch. Not all new pathways will be acceptable for previously registered projects due to the change in individual credit weightings. However, the CaGBC recognizes that some applicants will want to use the alternative pathways provided in the 2009 product line but are unable to fully upgrade due to the stage of the project. This methodology provides flexibility to LEED Canada users.

Why have there been delays in the launch of LEED Canada NC 2009?

A number of factors have resulted in the delays. CaGBC staff have worked with the volunteer committees that oversee development to continuously adapt to the changing hurdles as best possible. Whenever delays meant a potential halt in progress, development plans were adjusted so as to either move ahead in an area where progress was still possible, or integrate new features such as Core and Shell, which was not originally intended to be updated. We regret the delays, but are comforted by the knowledge that *LEED Canada NC 1.0* continues to serve Canadians well.

Will the final Rating System document be different from the balloted version?

LEED Canada NC 2009 Rating System was released for ballot to CaGBC members in December 2008. The Rating System document outlines the intents and requirements of each credit and prerequisite. Since balloting, *LEED Canada NC 2009* has undergone updates and changes. Most importantly, requirements for *LEED Canada CS 2009* have been added. In addition, changes (generally grammatical) made by the USGBC following their ballot have been integrated.

When will the final Rating System documents be released?

The final Rating System documents will be released in March 2010. To support the introduction of the new Rating Systems in Canada, the CaGBC intends to simultaneously release documentation outlining how *LEED Canada NC 2009* and *LEED Canada CS 2009* will be different from the current versions.

Why was LEED Canada Core and Shell 2009 integrated with LEED Canada NC 2009?

This was done in recognition of the fact that *LEED Canada CS* is derived from *LEED Canada NC* and significant portions of the content are identical. The integration also recognizes that some projects may begin as CS projects and finish as NC projects, or vice versa, depending on the ability to recruit tenants; by integrating the documentation for the two (sister) rating systems, we can better ensure alignment and provide greater ease of use for project teams faced with changing occupancy rates.

Why is LEED Canada CI not being updated?

LEED Canada for Commercial Interiors was only recently released in Canada (fully launched in 2007) and is a standalone product. It was determined that the best use of our resources was to redevelop only *LEED Canada NC* and *LEED Canada CS* at this time, as *LEED Canada CI* continues to serve customers well.

My company works on both sides of the border (Canada/USA). How will the LEED Canada products be different from the USGBC LEED 2009 products?

A comparison between LEED Canada and USGBC LEED versions will be made available with the release of the *LEED Canada NC 2009* and *LEED Canada CS 2009* Rating Systems in March. Those who operate in both the United States and Canada will find there is greater alignment with the new rating systems. The development team generally limited changes to those that could be justified by differences in the Canadian marketplace, such as standards and regulations.

When will the Reference Guides be available?

The development team is working as quickly as possible in the hopes of being able to release the electronic versions of the English and French Reference Guides when registration for *LEED Canada NC 2009* and *LEED Canada CS 2009* opens in June 2010.

Will the new LEED Canada products use USGBC's LEED Online?

No, LEED Canada 2009 projects will continue to use a process similar to the current *LEED Canada NC 1.0* certification methodology. There will be some minor changes (e.g., removal of the audit round); these will be explained closer to launch. The CaGBC is investigating moving to the USGBC's LEED Online system for a future version launch.

When can I attend a workshop to learn about the new rating systems?

Workshops are being planned for March 2010 onward; you can expect to see details posted shortly. These new workshops are expected to take a deeper look at the rating systems than previous versions, focusing more on application of the material and providing greater value to all those who attend.