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## LEED Technical Bulletin - March 2013

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This edition is all about Credit Interpretation Requests, or CIRs. There are some exciting developments, and some tips and tricks. The changes to the CIRs are of course captured in the updated CIR Methodology document, available on [CaGBC's website](#).



## Call for Volunteers for the CaGBC Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs)

Are you interested in making a valuable contribution to the growth of the green building movement and helping set the direction of the LEED program? The CaGBC is now accepting applications for all three Technical Advisory Groups, which serve to provide technical guidance to the Council. The TAGs provide support for all aspects of green building, and are focused into three areas of expertise: Sites and Water, Energy and Engineering, and Materials. CaGBC invites all qualified CaGBC Members to apply. For further information, please see the CaGBC website. The deadline for submitting is April 2, 2013 at 5 pm ET. | [top](#)

## New report from World Green Building Council showcases cost-effective green building benefits throughout the world

A new comprehensive report released this week from the World Green Building Council (WorldGBC), highlights that there are a large number of compelling benefits from green buildings received by different stakeholders throughout the life cycle of a building.

The report, "The Business Case for Green Building: A Review of the Costs and Benefits for Developers, Investors and Occupants," examines whether or not it's possible to attach a financial value to the cost and benefits of green buildings. Today, green buildings can be delivered at a price comparable to conventional buildings and investments can be recouped through operational cost savings and, with the right design

features, create a more productive workplace.

“This report synthesizes credible evidence from around the world on green buildings into one collective resource, and the evidence presented highlights that sustainable buildings provide tangible benefits and make clear business sense,” said Jane Henley, CEO of WorldGBC.

To learn more, [click here](#). | [top](#)

## Announcing Project-Specific CIRs

Periodically, CaGBC committees assess that a CIR ruling should be positive given the unique situation of the project in question, but struggle with the specific wording that would allow the CIR to be released publicly. In such cases, extensive research and rewrites may be required to ensure the final published CIR cannot be misinterpreted by other teams (e.g., ensuring there are no “loopholes”). It is this additional work that often takes the most time and delays applicants from receiving a prompt response.

In order to expedite the issuance of rulings, CaGBC staff and committees can now, at their own discretion, determine to classify such CIRs as “project-specific”. CIRs that are project-specific will only apply to the specific project for which the CIR was submitted. Accordingly, Project-Specific CIRs are not precedent-setting and will not automatically carry forth and apply to other projects submitted by the same or any other project team. Project-specific CIRs will not be made publicly available.

Note that the CIR process followed by applicants does not change once a CIR is determined to be project-specific. | [top](#)

## Scope CIRs Can Now Be Submitted Prior To Registration

Normally all CIRs must be requested only on a registered project and must pertain to that project. However, sometimes applicants need to ask for direction before a project is registered to appropriately determine the scope for registration; the CaGBC has responded to this need by providing a pathway for “Scope CIRs”. For example, it would be appropriate to request a Scope CIR if the project team had a large existing complex where only a portion of the space was undergoing renovation; if the project is unable to meet the Minimum Program Requirements (that provide required direction on when a space may be subdivided for certification), a Scope CIR would provide the team with the direction needed to appropriately define their space for LEED project registration. Scope CIRs can also be used where applicants are concerned the project may have trouble meeting a prerequisite and would like direction to determine if the project should register for certification.

Scope CIRs are, by and large, processed as normal CIRs are, and are published in the CaGBC’s CIR database. In order to submit a Scope CIR without a registered project to associate with it, the CIR should be requested by emailing the question (summary question, with context and arguments) to [certifications@cagbc.org](mailto:certifications@cagbc.org). A staff member will contact you to have payment provided. As CIRs are

### No Delays!

That’s right... there are no delays for new incoming CIRs. Applicants generally receive an email from CaGBC staff prepping the CIR for review within 2-3 weeks. Most CIRs are ruled on within three months, although complex CIRs may require longer due to increased research and discussion time.

**Pack up the CIRs and take them on the road with you!** Before you leave the office, simply go to the CIR webpage, log in and press “Search” with no criteria selected. All CIRs will be displayed in the results. Press “Export” and voila! The CIR database is available in Excel, which you can save to your laptop.

considered a benefit of the registration process (even with the nominal fee), Scope CIRs for non-registered projects are charged a higher fee to more fully represent the true costs of the process. Scope CIRs are charged \$750 plus appropriate taxes. | [top](#)

## Appealing Posted CIRs

The CaGBC is pleased to offer an opportunity to appeal posted (finalized) CIRs in instances where the applicant has significant new information or is appealing on a new aspect previously not considered. If you are unsure if your proposal meets these criteria, please send your inquiry to [info@cagbc.org](mailto:info@cagbc.org). Posted CIRs that are successfully appealed will be updated in the CIR database and a new ruling date will be provided; CIRs will remain unchanged if the appeal has a negative outcome. | [top](#)

### Looking for the latest CIRs?

It's simple. Just go to the CIR webpage, press the Search button with no criteria selected and the CIRs will be listed beginning with the most recent rulings.

## Unpaid CIRs to be DELETED

The CaGBC website allows CIRs to be created and saved in the online database before payment. However, in some instances applicants choose not to proceed with the CIR. In order to “clean” the database, any CIR submitted before yearend 2012 and not yet processed for payment will be removed from the database on April 2, 2013. Thereafter, older, unpaid CIRs will be removed each quarter. | [top](#)

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