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Canada Green Building Council
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LEED in the news

This new Tech Bulletin feature will highlight a recent article about LEED that you might have missed.

[Study: Extra costs minimal for LEED-certified hospitals](#)

Revisions to Recertification Performance Period requirements

After the release of the [LEED Canada for Existing Buildings: Operations and Maintenance Recertification Guidance](#) earlier this year, the CaGBC received many inquiries concerning the requirements of the recertification performance period. As always, the CaGBC encourages LEED Canada EB:O&M 2009 projects to proudly advertise and promote their certification for the five years in which it is valid, and to continue to demonstrate environmentally preferred operations practices on an ongoing basis.

The first iteration of the Recertification Guidance enforced a concept of ongoing tracking and performance to ensure that the time between the end of the initial performance period and the certification date would be considered as part of the recertification application. However, projects cannot advertise their certification or be sure that their practices meet requirements until the review process is complete. Therefore, the requirement to begin the five-year period for recertification at the end of the initial performance period meant that project teams would have less than the intended five years in which to promote their certification.

The CaGBC has recently revised and re-released the performance period requirements in the *LEED Canada for Existing Buildings: Operations and Maintenance Recertification Guidance* so that the performance period for recertification and the five-year period begin on the date of the previous certification. The current document is posted on the CaGBC [website](#) under Project Resources.

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LEED Canada EB:O&M 2009 Reference Guide addenda released

The CaGBC has recently released an addendum to the *LEED Canada for Existing Buildings: Operations and Maintenance 2009 Reference Guide*. This document contains errata and addenda and is intended to be used in conjunction with the published LEED Canada EB:O&M reference materials, supplementary guidance documents, and Credit Interpretation Requests. These changes are based on the experience gained by users and the Canada Green Building Council since the launch of the LEED Canada EB:O&M program.

There are two types of changes noted:

- Corrections to the text (errata), which apply to all projects regardless of registration date.
- Changes which may have a greater impact on the ability of projects to meet credit requirements (addenda). These changes apply as of the date of their release; projects registered after this date must abide by the changes noted.

The document is titled the *LEED Canada for Existing Buildings: Operations and Maintenance 2009 Reference Guide Addenda* and is available on the CaGBC [website](#) under Rating System and Reference guide.

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Tips and tricks: why projects can get held up at first review

Many people wonder why their projects are sometimes delayed prior to being sent for first review. Unfortunately, this is due to the fact that more than half of all projects have key documentation missing at the Completeness Check stage, which prevents initiation of the first review.

Don't let this happen to your project - double-check your project submission before you send it, and take note of these common errors:

1. Understand the differences between LEED Canada version 1.0 and 2009 drawing and photo package requirements.

Have you checked your drawing and photo packages? The vast majority of version 2009 projects do not take into account changes made to the submission requirements, and should be sure to double-check the Submittal Checklist in the LEED letter templates. LEED Canada 2009 projects are required to submit a more comprehensive photo package and a complete set of As-Built drawings. If As-Built drawings are not available the project may follow the alternative submission requirements outlined in CIR 1000.

2. Ensure your project has a well articulated LEED Project Site Area (LPSA).

Is your LEED project boundary clear? All projects should ensure that a drawing that clearly defines the project boundary has been provided. This includes providing justification for any area the project team may have exempted from the LEED project site area. A short description of the selection of the LPSA is highly recommended. If necessary, posted Credit Interpretation Requests (CIRs) may be used and referenced within the narrative. This small, often overlooked detail can result in many pending credits. Please note that the LPSA must meet the Minimum Program Requirements (MPRs) for all LEED Canada Building Design and Construction projects as well as all projects registered on/after Sept 1, 2012. The MPRs can also provide useful guidance for LEED Canada 1.0 projects.

Project teams are encouraged to review the Submission Checklist in the LEED letter templates as well as the Certification Process and Completeness Check tools available on the CaGBC [website](#).

Please note that the staff at the CaGBC do not verify that all required credit documentation has been provided or that all files provided are viewable. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the submission is complete and the documentation has been comprehensively prepared.

If you have any questions, please contact us [by email at any time](#).

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