

INTERPRETATIONS & APPLICATIONS OF BUILDING CODES & REGULATIONS 21-14

CODE SECTION: 2021 IgCC Section 901.4.1

12/17/24

SUBJECT: IgCC Reduced Impact Materials

The purpose of this interpretation is to clarify the application of Section 901.4.1 of the 2021 International Green Construction Code (IgCC) which reads as follows:

901.4.1 Reduced impact materials. The *building project* shall comply with any two of the following options. Calculations shall only include materials *permanently installed* in the project. Components of mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire safety systems and transportation devices can be included when determining compliance.

901.4.1.1 Recycled content and salvaged material content. The sum of the *recycled content* and *salvaged material* content shall constitute a minimum of 10% (based on estimated cost), of the total materials in the *building project*.

901.4.1.1.1 Recycled content. The *recycled content* of a material shall be the *postconsumer recycled content* plus one-half of the *preconsumer recycled content*, determined by weight (mass). The recycled fraction of the material in a product or an assembly shall then be multiplied by the cost of the product or assembly to determine its contribution to the 10% requirement.

901.4.1.2 Regional materials. A minimum of 15% (based on estimated cost) of the building materials or products used shall be regionally extracted/harvested/recovered or manufactured within a radius of 500 miles of the project *site*. If only a fraction of a product or material is extracted/harvested/recovered or manufactured locally, then only that percentage (by weight) shall contribute to the regional value.

901.4.1.3 Biobased products. A minimum of 5% (based on estimated cost) of building materials used, shall be *biobased products*.

901.4.1.3.1 Wood building components. This section ensures that wood products used in buildings are sourced from sustainably managed forests. Sustainable forestry describes forest policies, practices and market mechanisms designed to enhance the ecological, economic and social conditions of forest lands.

901.4.1.4 Multiple-Attribute Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs). A minimum of ten different building products shall be specified with industry-wide or product-specific EPDs. An EPD is a disclosure of environmental impacts of a product over its lifetime.

Application

1. As an alternative to calculating the material costs for recycled content, regional, and biobased materials per Section 901.4.1 above, you can calculate the percentage of wall surfaces, roof, and floor areas that meet the material percentage requirements.
2. Section 901.4.1 is not intended to apply to the following:
 - a. Shell and core/shell buildings, warehouses, manufacturing and storage facilities.
 - b. Tenant improvements where the area of improvements is less than 5,000 sq. ft.