

## Frequently Asked Questions

# SMaRT<sup>®</sup> Consensus Sustainable Product Standard

### Q1: What is SMaRT?

**A1:** A set of consensus-based sustainable product standards that cover 80% of the world's products—including building products, fabric, flooring and carpet. SMaRT is to products what LEED<sup>®</sup> is to buildings.

### Q2: What does SMaRT stand for?

**A2:** Sustainable Materials Rating Technology

### Q3: What makes SMaRT different from other sustainable certification programs?

**A3:** It is transparent, consensus-based, quantified, global, and it prevents unlawful greenwash.

### Q4: Who controls SMaRT?

**A4:** SMaRT Consensus Committees, made up of environmental groups, manufacturers, architect and local and state governments, have sole responsibility for SMaRT content development, approval, interpretation and revision. They use a democratic process. All interested parties can participate.

### Q5: Who administers SMaRT?

**A5:** The Institute for Market Transformation to Sustainability (MTS), a non-profit public charity with a goal to achieve 90% sustainable product market penetration by 2015.

### Q6: Who has oversight of MTS?

**A6:** MTS is an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Accredited Standards Developer that undergoes ANSI audits.

### Q7: What are SMaRT certified sustainable products?

**A7:** They are independently certified products best for the environment, economy and social equity.

### Q8: How are SMaRT sustainable products identified?

**A8:** They must score a minimum of 28 out of 157 points in the following areas covering all product stages across the global supply chain:

- + Safe for Public Health and Environment
- + Energy Reduction and Renewable Energy
- + Materials
- + Company and Facility Requirements, including Social Equity
- + Reuse and Reclamation

### Q9: How are SMaRT sustainable products certified?

**A9:** Manufacturers must:

- + Submit a completed application.
- + Pass an MTS data audit.
- + Execute a legally binding certification that the data are accurate and not misleading with qualified professionals.
- + Publish a summary of the certification on a web site.
- + Pass a third party audit by Ernst & Young's Global Sustainable Auditing Group or Redstone Global Auditing (silver, gold and platinum levels only).
- + Renew certification every three years.

### Q10: What are the levels of certification?

**A10:** Sustainable 28-40; Sustainable Silver 41-60; Sustainable Gold 61-89; Sustainable Platinum 90-157.

*(continued)*

**Q11: Why choose SMaRT?**

**A11:** SMaRT:

- + Has been adopted by the American Institute of Architects (AIA), U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Rating System, Sustainable Furniture Council, Wall Street Capital Markets Partnership and Fireman's Fund, among other organizations.
- + Is based on the LEED model and certified products can possibly contribute to one LEED Innovation and Design credit.
- + Incorporates all 24 leading sustainable product standards within its rating criteria.
- + Is a consensus standard that is the result of 15 years of approvals.
- + Includes a Life Cycle Assessment.

**Q12: What is Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) and why does SMaRT mandate it?**

**A12:** LCA is a set of requirements and guidelines that are part of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 14001 Environmental Management Standards. LCA scientifically measures multiple environmental impacts over all product stages throughout the global supply chain.

**Q13: Can SMaRT products contribute to LEED credits?**

**A13:** Yes, SMaRT certified products can contribute to an Innovation and Design credit for various LEED programs.