

The Living Building Challenge (LBC) Red List 2024 Update: A Guide for Project Teams

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Changes to the Red List:** Effective April 1, 2024, the International Living Future Institute (ILFI) is updating the Red List to include 917 new CASRNs distributed across 10 chemical classes. Building Project Teams will need to assess how these updates may impact their materials selections.
- **Changes to the Priority List:** ILFI moved all chemicals except antimicrobials and siloxanes from the Watch to the Priority List (3,198 CASRNs), and directly added 3,479 CASRNs to the Priority List that were already a part of existing chemical classes in [Pharos](#).
- **Changes to the Watch List:** ILFI added four new chemical classes to the Watch List - short-chain halogenated hydrocarbons, asphalt, stoddard solvent, and isocyanates.
- No new exceptions are being introduced at this time.

ABOUT THE RED LIST

The LBC Red List is a list of chemicals representing the “worst in class” substances prevalent in the building industry that pose serious risks to human health and the environment. The Red List is organized by chemical class and lists individual chemicals by Chemical Abstract Registry Number (CASRN). Since its inception in 2006, the Red List has been an intuitive tool for communicating the need to stop using chemicals that cause harm.

The Red List is the backbone of materials requirements in the Living Building Challenge, the Living Product Challenge, and the Declare label.

2024 RED LIST UPDATE

Effective April 1, 2024, ILFI is updating the Living Building Challenge Red List, Priority List, and Watch List (the Lists). The various changes this year are focused on quality control of the Lists, updating the chemicals within existing chemical classes, and harmonization of the Lists with the latest building materials research. These changes were made in order to improve the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the existing Red List chemical classes. ILFI worked with the [Healthy Building Network](#) and the Red List Working Group within our [Material Health Technical Advisory Group](#) to generate and review the changes to the Lists.

The five types of changes to the Red, Priority, and Watch Lists in April 2024 include:

- **Improving Accuracy:** Correcting inaccurate CASRNs and removing duplicates.
- **Advancing Chemicals of Concern:** Moving all chemicals except antimicrobials from the Priority to the Red List (917 CASRNs distributed across 10 chemical classes) and moving all chemicals except antimicrobials and siloxanes from the Watch to the Priority List (3,198 CASRNs).
 - ILFI will do further research, including alignment with industry partners on the class definition of antimicrobials, before considering moving them to the Red List.
- **Updating Existing Chemical Classes:** Adding chemicals to the Priority List that are already a part of existing chemical classes in [Pharos](#) (3,479 CASRNs).

- **New Chemical Classes:** Adding four new chemical classes to the Watch List. This means that ILFI is researching these chemical classes and will consider adding them to the Red List in the future, along with essential use or market exceptions as appropriate. Safer alternatives exist for some but not all functions in products.
 - **Short-chain Halogenated Hydrocarbons:** Examples of chemicals in this class include vinyl chloride (the precursor to polyvinyl chloride), refrigerant fluids with high global warming potential, and many ozone-depleting chemicals.
 - **Asphalt:** An occupational carcinogen commonly used in insulation facing, waterproofing, roofing, and paving.
 - **Stoddard Solvent:** An occupational carcinogen and mutagen commonly used in roofing, waterproofing, sealants, metal coatings, paints, and paint thinners.
 - **Isocyanates:** Respiratory sensitizers used in spray foam insulation, spray foam roofing, and polyurethane adhesive and coatings.
- **Removal of one Resin from the Red List:** Research by a toxicology firm showed that a specific Novolac resin, a phenol-formaldehyde polymer, is formulated such that the formaldehyde is the limiting reagent and is fully incorporated into the polymer with no residual formaldehyde in the final product. This chemical is moving to the Watch List.

Research and engagement with technical advisors and the scientific and manufacturing communities are needed before advancing more chemicals from the Priority List to the Red List or the new chemical classes from the Watch List to the Priority or Red Lists.

Please visit the [Red List web page](#) to download the updated Red List CASRN Guide.

GUIDANCE AND HOW TO INCORPORATE RED LIST UPDATES

1. Project teams pursuing the Living Building Challenge's Materials Petal certification after April 1, 2024 will be required to use the 2024 Red List to screen products. Project teams pursuing the Living Building Challenge's Materials Petal are only required to use the Red List in effect at the time of project registration with ILFI to determine compliance for materials.
2. Project teams may elect to include Priority Watch List and Watch List chemicals in their product vetting criteria, but may not prioritize the avoidance of Watch List chemicals over avoidance of Red List chemicals.
3. As the Red List updates to include new chemicals, it is possible that the Declare status on a product's Declare label might be inconsistent with the updated Red List because labels are in effect for 12 months, independent of the calendar year. Please view Imperatives [I13](#) and [I14](#) in the Living Building Challenge 4.0 Handbook for information about how this affects project requirements.

FEEDBACK AND QUESTIONS

If you have feedback or questions, please contact lbc.support@living-future.org.

For additional details about the Living Building Challenge Red List 2024 update, please visit <https://living-future.org/red-list/>.