

How to achieve LEED New Construction (NC) Energy and Atmosphere Credit 4

The USGBC has changed the way the Energy and Atmosphere Credit 4 can be attained in its LEED for New Construction (NC) document.

This document only addresses the base HVAC systems, not the fire suppression system.

Today, a project achieves EA Credit 4 based on answers to several questions:

- Which version of LEED is being used for certification? LEED NC 2.0, 2.1 or 2.2?
- If LEED NC 2.0 or 2.1 is being used, was the certification application date before October 15, 2005 or between October 16 and December 31, 2005?

Note: the certification date is the date the project team originally applies for certification, not the date the project team submits documentation.

Use the section below that applies to the relevant NC version number and date.

LEED NC 2.2 certification:

There are two compliance paths available

1. Use no refrigerants
2. **All** refrigerants used must comply with a requirement based on
 - refrigerant global warming potential (GWP) and ozone depletion potential (ODP)
 - leakage rates (defaults are 2% per year and 10% end-of-life losses)
 - equipment type (which defines equipment life)

Use this [spreadsheet](#) to perform the calculations using the defaults. If the resulting calculation is less than or equal to 100, the project achieves EA Credit 4.

LEED NC 2.1 or 2.0 certification:

(can be used if the application for certification was made on or prior to October 15, 2005)

There are two compliance paths available:

1. Use no HCFCs **or**
2. Follow an alternative compliance path using an equation based on
 - refrigerant GWP and ODP
 - leakage rates (defaults are 1% per year and 3% end-of-life losses)
 - equipment life

You can quickly perform those [calculations](#) using this spreadsheet to see if the project achieves EA Credit 4.

LEED NC 2.1 certification:

(can be used if the application for certification was made between October 16 and December 31, 2005)

Use no HCFCs