3 MATERIALS ASPECTS 3.2 SELECTION OF MATERIALS

3.2.1 RAPIDLY RENEWABLE MATERIALS

EXCLUSIONS None.

OBJECTIVE Encourage the wider use of rapidly renewable materials in appropriate applications.

CREDITS ATTAINABLE 1

PRE-REQUISITES Compliance with the Building (Construction) Regulations.

CREDIT REQUIREMENT 1 credit for demonstrating that in applications where rapidly renewable materials can be employed at least 50% are used in the building.

ASSESSMENT The Client shall submit a report prepared by a suitably qualified person listing applications where rapidly renewable materials have been employed, and quantifying (in terms of area, weight or volume) the amount of materials employed, as a percentage of the total of the potential amount of materials that could be employed. The report shall include supporting documentation from suppliers listing the rapidly renewable materials and quantities contained in the products used.

The report should highlight where rapidly renewable materials could be used, and where they have been used to replace other more commonly used materials. Provide calculations demonstrating that rapidly renewable building materials have been in at least 50% of possible applications.

For the purposes of assessment reference shall be made to the check-list given below.

CHECK-LIST No material specified shall present a fire hazard when installed.

FLOORING
Bamboo
Natural Linoleum
Cork
Other rapidly renewable materials

PANELS/PARTITIONS
Sunflower Seed
Bamboo
Wheatboard
Other rapidly renewable materials

CABINETRY/FITTINGS
Wheatboard
Strawboard
Soy bean composite
Bamboo
Other rapidly renewable materials

INSULATION
Cotton
Strawbale
Soy-based foam
Other rapidly renewable materials

OTHER APPLICATIONS (MATERIAL)
BACKGROUND

Most building materials necessitate the consumption of large amounts of natural resources. Rapidly renewable materials are materials that substantially themselves faster than traditional extraction demand (i.e., planted and harvested in less than a 10 year cycle) and do not result in significant biodiversity loss, increased erosion, or air quality impacts. Rapidly renewable materials include, but are not limited to, bamboo, linoleum, cork, fast-growing poplar, pine and products such as wheat straw cabinetry. Materials such a bamboo, wool, natural linoleum, etc. require fewer inputs, have reduced environmental impacts, and can provide economic benefits.

Designers should establish objectives for the use of rapidly renewable materials and identify where such materials can be applied as substitutes for more commonly used resource intensive materials. The use of materials such as bamboo flooring, strawboard, cotton insulation, natural linoleum flooring, etc. should be considered as a minimum.