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DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES,  
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## Trex Composite Wood Products Obtain Sustainable Attributes Verification Report from ICC-ES

Build a deck without taking down a single tree? Turn plastic grocery bags into an outdoor living space? It can be done, with Trex alternative decking. Trex decking, railing, fencing and fascia products are made of a unique combination of wood and plastic fibers from reclaimed or recycled resources including used pallets, sawdust, packaging film and plastic grocery bags.

Trex is the first composite wood manufacturer to have its sustainable attributes evaluated by ICC Evaluation Service (ICC-ES) through the Sustainable Attributes Verification and Evaluation (SAVE) Program. Trex’s Verification of Attributes Report (VAR-1011) provides independent, third-party verification of the recycled and bio-based material content of its outdoor building products.

Trex composite decking (Origins, Brasilia, Contours, Accents and Fire Defense), fencing (Seclusion and Surroundings), Designer Series Railing and Fascia contain a minimum of 97% recycled content as verified by ICC-ES. The Trex Transcend line of high-performance decking materials is made up of 95.4% recycled content.

“Trex regularly seeks third-party audits to make sure we’re continuously improving our green practices while meeting environmental, health and safety guidelines and regulations,” explains Kyle Lancaster, Director of Technical Services at Trex. “Trex has a long-standing relationship with ICC-ES in the evaluation of our products for code compliance, so we jumped at the chance to participate in the SAVE Program. ICC-ES is highly regarded in the industry and



we knew that having its 'green' evaluation mark would bring enhanced credibility to our environmental efforts.”

Trex is a company committed to environmental responsibility in all of its activities. No trees are directly cut down to make Trex. The product comes from used pallets, reclaimed wood scrap and about 150,000 tons of waste polyethylene film each year. The unique composition keeps 300,000 tons of plastic and wood scrap out of landfills every year. For its manufacturing process, Trex uses vegetable-based oil hydraulics in transportation trailers, has eliminated the need for smokestacks in its manufacturing facilities and recycles factory refuse back into the manufacturing line.

“The VAR is a tool that Trex now has available to show their customers that the sustainable attributes of their products have been independently verified, giving Trex a competitive edge in a very competitive market,” says Sabrina Pott, ICC-ES Senior Evaluation Specialist. “The evaluation of the products covered in Trex’s VAR shows products with significant recycled and bio-based material content.”

The SAVE Program verifies Trex’s claims about the sustainable attributes of its decking materials and shows how the products may qualify for points under major green building standards. These standards include the National Association of Home Builders and International Code Council’s 2008 National Green Building Standard (ICC 700-2008); LEED 2009 for New Construction and Major Renovation, published by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC); USGBC’s LEED for Homes; and the 2008 California Green Building Standards Code. Each is listed in the Trex VAR along with the possible points for which Trex’s products may be eligible in new home construction or renovations.

“The SAVE VAR allows us to show our customers independent proof of the high levels of recycled and bio-based content in Trex products, and facilitates compliance with green building systems,” says Lancaster. “All of the necessary information is in one report from ICC-ES, a group that is highly regarded and widely accepted in the building industry.”

“Trex has a long history of using recycled materials in our products,” Lancaster continues. “We remain committed to carrying on that tradition in every facet of our work, whether in the manufacturing plants, recycling efforts in our offices or with our products.”

The ICC-ES SAVE Program addresses a product’s entire production process, beginning with raw material acquisition and progressing through the final manufacturing and packaging. The SAVE evaluation includes both inspection of the manufacturer’s production process and product testing at recognized laboratories, where required by the ICC-ES evaluation guideline. The resulting VAR offers the manufacturer, product specifier, designer and code official a reliable, independent source of information on product sustainability, and a way to determine point qualifications under major green rating systems. Verified products receive a SAVE mark as proof.

Trex products were evaluated to EG101, the ICC-ES Evaluation Guideline for Determination of Recycled Content of Materials, and EG102, the ICC-ES Evaluation Guideline for Determination of Bio-based Material Content.

Trex also holds ICC-ES Evaluation Reports ESR-1190 and ESR-2387 for its decking and railing products. The ESRs demonstrate compliance with the 2006 International Building Code and International Residential Code. ESR-1190 ([www.icc-es.org/reports/pdf\\_files/ICC-ES/ESR-1190.pdf](http://www.icc-es.org/reports/pdf_files/ICC-ES/ESR-1190.pdf)) evaluated the structural properties, surface-burning characteristics and durability of Trex Origins, Brasilia, Contours, Designer Series, Accents and Fascia lines. ESR-2387 ([www.icc-es.org/reports/pdf\\_files/ICC-ES/ESR-2387.pdf](http://www.icc-es.org/reports/pdf_files/ICC-ES/ESR-2387.pdf)) evaluated the structural properties, surface-burning characteristics and durability of Trex Accents Fire Defense Decking. Since the Trex products are covered by both an ICC-ES SAVE VAR and evaluation reports, those who use and approve the products can be confident both that they are code-compliant and that the claimed sustainable attributes have been evaluated by an independent third party.

A nonprofit, public-benefit corporation, ICC-ES is the United States’ leading evaluation service for innovative building materials, components and systems. ICC-ES Evaluation Reports and PMG Listing Program provide evidence that products and systems meet requirements in codes and standards. The ICC-ES SAVE Program provides verification that products have been independently evaluated as having the sustainable attributes claimed by the manufacturer to develop and advance sustainable design and construction. ICC-ES is a subsidiary of the International Code Council. For more information about ICC-ES, visit [www.icc-es.org](http://www.icc-es.org).

To find out more about these Trex Company Inc. products, view VAR-1011, issued June 1, 2010 at <http://saveprogram.icc-es.org/reports/pdf/VAR-1011.pdf>. All SAVE™ VAR™s can be accessed and downloaded free of charge at [www.icc-es.org/save](http://www.icc-es.org/save).

*\* This article is intended to provide information on a product for which an ICC-ES SAVE™ VAR has recently been issued. It should not be construed as a product endorsement or a recommendation for its use.*