February 20, 2014

NOTIFICATION TO PUBLIC & STAKEHOLDERS: ISSUANCE OF REVISIONS TO THE GREEN SEAL STANDARD FOR HOTELS AND LODGING PROPERTIES, GS-33.

After reviewing the state of the lodging industry and information gathered during certification reviews, Green Seal identified the need for revisions to GS-33 in order to ensure that the requirements for certification are clear and appropriate. The new edition maintains the same level of leadership and protection, without making major changes or increasing the stringency of the criteria. Currently-certified hotels and lodging properties should, therefore, continue to meet all of the requirements in GS-33.

Clarifications: Some criteria and definitions were revised in order to limit the need for interpretation, by making the requirements for conformance clear and unequivocal. Specific types of records needed for the review process were specified in the criteria, to ensure that these requirements are clear and can be assessed objectively. Specific details of requirements were added where necessary, and possible exemptions to the requirements were listed explicitly.

Reorganization: The standard has been reorganized so that each criterion includes the requirements for all three certification levels in a single section, to make comparisons easier. The purchasing requirements have been consolidated into one section.

Additions: Third-party ecolabel certifications are now accepted as an option for meeting the purchasing requirements. The optional Gold-level criterion for Waste Reduction was reduced to 60%, and an additional optional criterion has been added for the Management of Resource Use.

Edition 5.2 of GS-33 was issued on February 20, 2014, and can be found at greenseal.org/GS33.

We thank all those who commented for their interest and time, and their help in revising the standards. If you have any questions, please contact us at 202.872.6400 or standards@greenseal.org.

Sincerely,

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Green Seal