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Date: March 4, 2010
To: BPF Sales & Marketing Teams
Subject: Clarification of LEED, REACH, and RoHS Requirements

Over the last five years, individual customer requests for “LEED”, “REACH”, or “RoHS” compliances have been steadily rising. This is due to the fact that many construction projects (both public and private) have been selected to be ‘green’ or to be constructed with environmentally responsible methods and/or products. Of course, these requests take time and resources to properly review and comply with. In order to help address these requests efficiently, company form letters were created for the purpose of informing the customer of our position on these requests. In many cases these have been effective by themselves, but there are a few requests that have not been resolved so easily.

There seems to be some basic confusion not only within the industry, but within our own sales force, regarding *what kind* of information is required to be provided by the manufacturer. Within the conduit and cable fittings and related hardware industry, there is not much that *can* be provided. I wanted to make sure everyone understood the difference between all of these requests and how they should be handled.

Starting with LEED, there is simply no such thing as a “*LEED Certified Product*”. It is important to educate our customers, who typically, blindly pass along forms or their customer requirements as evidence they are purchasing “LEED Certified” materials. We should not sign anything that claims Bridgeport’s products are “certified” for LEED. LEED is a building certification *program*. The following is the crucial excerpt from the LEED website and thoroughly explains what the program is:

"USGBC does not certify, endorse or promote products, services or companies, nor do we track, list or report data related to products and their environmental qualities. LEED™ is a certification system that deals with the environmental performance of buildings based on overall characteristics of the project. We do not award credits based on the use of particular products but rather upon meeting the performance standards set forth in our rating systems. It is up to project teams to determine which products are most appropriate for credit achievement and program requirements."

Furthermore...

The LEED™ program is for "Architects, Real Estate Professionals, Facility Managers, Engineers, Interior Designers, Landscape Architects, Construction Managers, Lenders and Government Officials all use LEED™ to help transform the built environment to sustainability."



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If you are presented with a LEED form, the most you should have to fill out is the company name, address, contact information, and product catalog numbers. Everything else should be not applicable "N/A". You should also supply a copy of our LEED statement with every request.

Next is "REACH". Like the LEED requirements, there is no such thing as a "REACH Certified Product" in our product category. "REACH" is a European Union Regulation which primarily regulates chemicals and other related preparations. Many US-based companies have adopted this regulation to help the reduction of their environmental impact. However, under the structure of the Regulation, die-casted components or other similar products/components manufactured by Bridgeport Fittings are considered "Articles", which by definition means "an object which during production is given a special shape, surface or design which determines its function to a greater degree than its chemical composition". Within the REACH guidelines, "Articles" are exempt from these registration requirements. Also like LEED, if you are presented with a REACH form, the most you should have to fill out is the company name, address, contact information, and product catalog numbers. Everything else should be not applicable "N/A". You should also supply a copy of our REACH statement with every request.

Finally, there is "RoHS". "RoHS" is another European Union Directive which many companies in the US have also adopted to become more environmentally responsible. "RoHS" is short for the Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations (2008). These Regulations implement EU Directive 2002/95 which bans the placing on the EU market of new electrical and electronic equipment containing more than agreed levels of lead, cadmium, mercury, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyl (PBB) and polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE) flame retardants. All of Bridgeport Fittings products comply with the RoHS Requirements. Our products have levels of these elements and compounds well below the maximum allowable levels. We insure this by only sourcing RoHS compliant raw material, components, and products. If you are requested to complete a form, please do so, and be sure to include a copy of our RoHS compliance statement.

The latest certification letters are available on our website under "Contractor USA" > "Technical Data" > "Compliance". If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly at larrys@bptfittings.com.

Thank you for your cooperation.