

ALERT

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN COMMISSIONING

1. ISSUE: The VA [Sustainable Design and Energy Reduction Manual](#) (Apr 2010) was published prior to release of the VA [Whole Building Commissioning Process Manual](#) (Aug 2010). Therefore, the Sustainable Design Manual does not clearly identify commissioning requirements, causing confusion during project design and construction.

2. BACKGROUND: VA is required by Executive Order 13423 to comply with the 2006 [Guiding Principles for Federal Leadership in High Performance and Sustainable Buildings](#) (Guiding Principles). The Guiding Principles encourage the use of total building commissioning as a means by which to improve building performance and enhance sustainability.

VA adopted whole building commissioning as a standard practice and requires its use on projects costing more than \$5M, with details outlined in the VA [Whole Building Commissioning Process Manual](#).

3. STANDARD: To comply with the sustainable design and construction requirements of Executive Order 13423, VA projects must follow the requirements outlined in the VA [Whole Building Commissioning Process Manual](#).

In particular, the following requirements must be met: 1) Projects costing more than \$5M require commissioning, and 2) Commissioning Agents (CxA) must be involved in a project no later than the Pre-Design Phase.

In addition, all projects pursuing third-party green building certification under the Green Globes program must achieve Credit 6.3, "Whole Building Commissioning," and projects pursuing certification under LEED must achieve Energy & Atmosphere Prerequisite 1 "Fundamental Commissioning of Building Energy Systems" and Energy & Atmosphere Credit 3 "Enhanced Commissioning".

4. CONTACT: James Symanski Jr., P.E., Facilities Standards Service at James.Symanski@va.gov.