



The New, Lab Friendly Version 2.0

FALL 2018

Created by Delos and administered by the International Well Building Institute (IWBI), the WELL Building Standard is an evidence-based approach to enhancing the health and wellness, and therefore performance, of a building's occupants. Whereas LEED is principally focused on a building's impact on the environment, the WELL Building Standard focuses on the health and well-being of building occupants. Based on scientific, medical and technical research on the effects of spaces on individuals, the standard identifies performance metrics, design strategies and policies that can be implemented by owners, designers, architects, engineers, contractors, and end users of a building.



<https://v2.wellcertified.com/>

WELL's original version, launched in 2015, categorized distinct building types and scored them accordingly. Unfortunately, WELL's initial focus on specific building types made it difficult for Lab Buildings to achieve its standards, as labs were not among the recognized building types. This changed in May of this year with the release of Version 2 of the WELL Building Standard. WELL V2 differs from its predecessor in that it is designed to be more flexible and possible for all types of projects in every part of the world. For example, the WELL Building Standard V2 features:

- One scorecard for all project types (except for Core Building Certification). This single scorecard streamlines and unifies all the various Version 1 scorecards (New and Existing Buildings, New and Existing Interiors, Multifamily Residential, Commercial Kitchen, Retail, and Education) and is more flexible for all kinds of project types, including those without "specific" scorecards in Version 1.
- 10 Concepts...an expansion from the original seven Concepts in Version 1. Similar to WELL Version 1, each concept in Version 2 is sub-divided into Features which are either Preconditions or Optimizations. The 10 Concepts are: Air, Water, Nourishment, Light, Movement, Thermal Comfort, Sound, Materials, Mind, and Community.
- A significant reduction in the number of preconditions required. Fewer preconditions are designed to make WELL certification more achievable for any project type. In addition, according to the IWBI, WELL V2 preconditions and optimizations are organized to make it easier for Existing Buildings and Existing Interiors to feasibly achieve Well certification without major capital expenditures.
- A significant increase in the number of optimizations. Increased optimizations are designed so projects can pick and choose wellness goals and interests that better integrate with any project type, design and operation without sacrificing the documented scientific rigor behind WELL.

Now that V2 is here, what does this mean for Labs? In today's highly competitive employment environment, the war for talent is one in which every advantage should be considered to attract and retain top scientists. Labs that seek and achieve WELL certification will have evidence-verified facilities that promote employee health and wellness, offering substantial benefits for employees.

experience in brief

WELL Building V2 offers three certification levels:

1. WELL Silver
Certification: 50 points required to achieve.
2. WELL Gold
Certification: 60 points required to achieve.
3. WELL Platinum
Certification: 80 points required to achieve.

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at: info@hixson-inc.com
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