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UL and the Center for Active Design Launch a Revolutionary Partnership, Bringing Together Industry Leading Building and Product Health Certifications

Certification programs provide evidence-based standards that address all aspects of design, fit-out, and operations within a building

NEW YORK, June 19, 2018– UL, a global safety science leader, and the Center for Active Design (CfAD), operator of Fitwel, the world’s leading building certification system for health, today announced a partnership that will expand the market for healthier, more sustainable products and buildings globally. This alignment represents the first time two leading certification bodies are uniting to provide comprehensive resources on healthy buildings and products for the design and real estate industries. The initial focus is to increase the adoption of the Fitwel Certification System in China, while also providing architects, designers, and developers with more access to products with reduced risks to human health.

UL and CfAD will work together to expand the adoption of Fitwel in China, where the demand for healthier buildings is growing exponentially. According to a 2018 report from the Global Wellness Institute, 47 percent of consumers are willing to pay more for better indoor air quality and Beijing homebuyers will pay up to 14 percent more to be close to a park. With established and impactful standards for health-promoting features, including location and limits to product emissions that impact indoor air quality, both UL and CfAD will provide support for architects, buildings owners, and others in China looking to certify a building to the Fitwel standard.

To further accomplish this goal, UL and CfAD will collaborate to align products in the UL SPOT[®] database with Fitwel criteria, resulting in increased access for architects, designers, and building owners to more than 13,400 products in SPOT that can contribute to Fitwel requirements. Additionally, UL’s Wellness Certification program for products will be aligned to comply with criteria in the Fitwel system, making it easier for the industry to identify products that positively contribute to health and the achievement of Fitwel Certification.

“UL is excited to work with CfAD to increase the adoption of evidence-based wellness programs, such as Fitwel, because it complements UL’s Mission to develop healthier, more sustainable working and living environments,” said Alberto Uggetti, vice president and general manager, UL Environment. “Together we will increase the number of healthier buildings in China, make it easier to find products that contribute to Fitwel credits through SPOT, and promote healthier products globally.”

“As someone who has worked in the building industry for over 20 years, I have long admired UL’s approach to product certification and am proud that our organization is partnering with them to bring about market transformation in health,” said Joanna Frank, president and chief executive officer CfAD. “Our shared driving principles of bringing science-based solutions to improve health and wellness in the global real estate market make this partnership a natural fit and we anticipate rapid expansion of both of our programs in the Chinese and other new and existing markets.”

UL and CfAD are announcing this partnership at the A’18 show, The Conference on Architecture (<http://conferenceonarchitecture.com/>) on June 21, 2018 at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York City, NY. Show attendees are invited to visit UL at booth 2828 to request a SPOT demonstration and learn more about the partnership.

UL launched SPOT in 2016 and it has quickly grown into a credible resource for architects, designers and specifiers to identify sustainable products. SPOT is designed to facilitate product selection for green building projects and is searchable by LEED credit, MasterFormat® code, and certification programs, and features downloadable product documentation that supports the Fitwel submittal process. SPOT leverages UL’s extensive product performance and sustainability data to help purchasers and specifiers find products for their green buildings that they can trust.

Fitwel launched to the public market in early 2017 and has seen rapid adoption of the certification standard within workplaces and multifamily residential buildings. Fitwel offers a unique portfolio-based approach, allowing companies to certify all of their real estate assets in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Fitwel provides a user-friendly digital interface for project certification that provides the industry with data on health impact and company performance, which can be used to elevate ESG ratings.

About UL Environment

UL Environment works to advance global sustainability, environmental health, and safety by supporting the growth and development of environmentally preferable products, services, and organizations. We help companies achieve their sustainability goals—and help purchasers, specifiers, retailers, governments, and consumers find products they can trust. UL Environment offers environmental claim validations, multi-attribute product certifications, environmental product declarations, indoor air quality certification, product emissions testing, organizational sustainability certification, and consulting. For more information, visit <http://www.ul.com/environment> and connect with us via [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) or [Facebook](#).

About UL

UL fosters safe living and working conditions for people everywhere through the application of science to solve safety, security and sustainability challenges. The UL Mark engenders trust enabling the safe adoption of innovative new products and technologies. Everyone at UL shares a passion to make the world a safer place. We test, inspect, audit, certify, validate, verify, advise and train and we support these efforts with software solutions for safety and sustainability. To learn more about us, visit UL.com.

About Fitwel & the Center for Active Design

Named one of Fast Company's 2017 Top 10 Most Innovative Companies in Social Good, [Fitwel](#) is the premiere global health certification system for optimizing building design and operations. Generated by expert analysis of

over 3,000 academic research studies, Fitwel is implementing a vision for a healthier future where all buildings and communities are enhanced to strengthen health and wellbeing. Fitwel was created as a joint initiative led by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention together with the General Services Administration. The [Center for Active Design](#), an international non-profit that uses design to foster healthy and engaged communities was awarded the exclusive operating license in 2016 with the mandate to expand Fitwel globally to the private sector. Twitter: @active_design + @fitwel

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