

NSF/ANSI 342 Sustainability Assessment for Wallcovering

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ANSI Standards Writing Organization: NSF International
789 N. Dixboro Road
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105

Chair of NSF 342 Joint Committee – Brian J. Zamora

Vice Chair of NSF 342 Joint Committee – Jeff Rezin

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Standard Scope – This Standard establishes a consistent approach to the evaluation and determination of environmentally preferable and sustainable wallcovering manufacturing and distribution processes. The Standard includes relevant criteria across the product life cycle from raw material extraction through manufacturing, distribution, use, and end-of-life management.

The scope of the standard includes the following wallcovering manufacturing processes:

- Raw material inputs (fibers, resins, additives, colorants, and process chemicals)
- Fabric backings
- Finishing treatments (print inks, etc)
- Adhesive systems
- End of life management of materials

The scope of the standard also includes the following wallcovering distribution processes:

- Product Distribution
- Recycling Infrastructure support
- Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

As used in this Standard, “Wallcovering Manufacturing & Distribution” includes, but is not limited to, textiles, vinyl, vinyl coated, alternative polymer, alternative polymer coated, textiles, paper and other natural fiber products and natural fiber products. The Standard includes all products manufactured in one facility or multiple facilities, one country or multiple countries.

Use of this Standard – This Standard is for users of any and all wallcovering products, the Standard will communicate verifiable, accurate, and third-party certification regarding sustainability of production, distribution, and end of life of wallcoverings in the market.

The marketplace and customers are creating a demand for products which cause less stress on the environment and society. This Standard is voluntary and encourages inclusive participation in the production and distribution of sustainable wallcoverings across and within the supply chain.

This Standard is science based which provides transparency and offers third-party credibility for manufacturers and distributors in making claims of environmental preferable materials. The principles and procedures used to support such claims are included in the Standard. Developers of the Standard included government, end users, architects, and industry leaders along with NSF and is ANSI certified.

Sustainability-related information assists the manufacturers and distributors decisions about supply chain modifications; product content changes, manufacturing adjustments, performance improvements, end-of-life options, and corporate governance, with the goal of producing more

sustainable products.

This Standard provides a means to track incremental changes to the products' sustainability profile. This Standard is intended to provide a consistent framework in which to compare and assess the sustainable nature of products, by various manufacturers and distributors.

This Standard allows both manufacturers and distributors to promote the sustainability of products to the marketplace. Wallcoverings are currently the only product by which manufacturers *and* distributors must both be qualified to the Standard, to promote sustainable materials. In some cases, levels reached for a product will vary, based on points earned by different distributors for the same product.

Elements of Standard -

- Product Design
- Product Manufacturing
- Long-term Value
- End of Life Management
- Corporate Governance
- Innovation
- Distribution Channel to the market

Conformance Levels -

- Conformant
- Silver
- Gold
- Platinum

Manufacturers with Certified Products - Click on this web-site for a list of manufacturers certified to this standard: <http://www.nsf.org/Certified/Sustain/Listings.asp?ProdCat=342&>

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789 N. Dixboro Road
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105
734-827-6835