

## Sustainability Assessment for Resilient Floor Coverings

As products with sustainability claims continue to inundate the market, certification allows designers, specifiers, and procurement officials to make easy but informed decisions when it comes to understanding and purchasing such products as resilient floor coverings. NSF/ANSI 332 Sustainability Assessment Standard for Resilient Floor Coverings (NSF 332) is the new U.S. national standard for floor covering manufacturers to use in certifying resilient flooring products for sustainability attributes.

### Standard 332 Overview

NSF/ANSI 332 uses a point-based system in which manufacturers achieve one of four levels of certification: conformant, silver, gold and platinum – with conformant status meeting entry level criteria and platinum adhering to the most strenuous requirements. The standard includes prerequisite requirements as well as performance criteria and quantifiable metrics in six key areas: 1) Product Design, 2) Product Manufacturing, 3) Long-term Value, 4) End of Life Management, 5) Corporate Governance and 6) Innovation.

### Certification Benefits

There are numerous benefits for manufacturers to seek independent certification to NSF 332 for their resilient flooring products. NSF 332 certification will allow manufacturers to:

- Distinguish your products from your competitors, making you a preferred vendor to those seeking sustainable solutions.
- Demonstrate your commitment to sustainability.
- Meet customer demands for products with sustainable attributes.
- Save money by adopting more sustainable operational practices and business approaches.

### Why Choose NSF International?

- **Reliable, consistent results:** As the standard development organization, NSF knows the requirements inside and out, and the intent behind each key area.
- **Meet your expanding needs:** NSF is a leading worldwide independent registrar with programs such as ISO 14001, ISO 9000 and Greenhouse Gas verification and Forestry certification services.
- **Global service:** NSF conducts audits in 101 countries around the world and has a large network of international auditors.
- **Exceptional customer service:** NSF will provide you with a single point of contact to guide you through the process.
- **Cost effective:** NSF pricing is very competitive. Each proposal is carefully tailored to the individual client. Discounts may be available for multiple services.
- **Peace of mind:** NSF draws upon a 60-year history of laboratory testing, product review, validation, and technical excellence.

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## Background

The Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) with the assistance of NSF International, a leader in standards development and product certification began developing this sustainability assessment for resilient floor covering products in 2006. A multi-stakeholder committee was formed with balanced representation from the end user, manufacturer, and regulatory groups to provide the commercial market with an easy to understand certification for resilient flooring products. The standard allows transparency and open understanding regarding conformance requirements, providing for more understandable and meaningful marketplace comparisons.

## Other Services

Besides product certification for resilient flooring products, NSF also offers a comprehensive range of sustainable business solutions including:

- **Standards Development** - NSF has many years of expertise in writing and developing standards across a broad range of business sectors, not least in the area of sustainability. For organizations seeking a highly-credible resource to assist in documentation development through ANSI's consensus standards process, then NSF is the right choice.
- **Environmental Claims Verification** - Our clients are increasingly asking for environmental claims verification because they want to prove an environmental product or process claim to their customers; to enhance their brand; or to bolster their internal sustainability program. NSF bases our verifications on Federal Trade Commission Guidelines and ISO 14021 to ensure a credible claim. Whether the claim involves product testing, data validation, or process verification, NSF's experienced staff will recommend the right approach for you.
- **Greenhouse Gas Management Services** - NSF has expanded its environmental services to provide verification and validation of Greenhouse Gas Inventories and projects, being one of just a handful of leading bodies in this field and accredited by US accreditation authority, ANSI. Our range of greenhouse gas management services meet regulatory and voluntary GHG reporting initiatives and enhance your company's public credibility in environmental initiatives.
- **Management Systems Registration** - NSF's comprehensive program will provide the total solution your company requires. We offer single certifications in all major quality (ISO 9000 series), environmental (ISO 14001) and safety standards (OHSAS 18001) and cost-effective sampling programs for companies with multiple locations. We specialize in combined audit services to save you time and money.
- **Greener Chemical Products and Processes (Coming Soon)** - NSF/GCI 355 provides a voluntary and standardized way to define and report chemicals and processes primary categories of information, their respective data elements, and data quality objectives to the end user. This information will be provided by suppliers to help customers evaluate the relative greenness of a chemical product and process over its life cycle. The goal is for the supplier and customer to each reduce the environmental footprint of the chemical product and chemical process in a socially responsible manner.

## Contact

For more information about NSF certification to NSF 332, contact us via:

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To purchase a copy of Standard 332, visit <http://www.techstreet.com/nsfgate.html>.