

## Questions and Answers on NSF/GCI 355: Greener Chemicals and Processes Information Standard

### Q: Who developed NSF/GCI 355: Greener Chemicals and Processes Information Standard?

A: NSF International established a partnership with the American Chemical Society, ACS Green Chemistry Institute® (ACS GCI) to help develop a consensus-based standard through the ANSI process.



### Q: What is the purpose of NSF/GCI 355?

A: To provide the chemical enterprise with a voluntary and standardized way to define and report on:

- Chemical product hazard profile:
  - Physical chemical properties
  - Human health hazards
  - Ecological effects
- Impacts of the chemical manufacturing process:
  - Material chemical efficiency & waste prevention
  - Water
  - Energy...etc.

### Q: Who are potential users of NSF/GCI 355?

A: **Manufacturers of chemicals** can develop one report to satisfy many requests. Resulting reports form a normalized framework for business to business communication.

**Users of chemicals** receive a standardized set of information about a chemical product's hazard profile and manufacturing process impacts. They can use this information as a foundation for informed decision-making. Additionally, they can use this information to feed into current decision making tools such as:

- Clean Production Action Green Screen™
- US EPA Design for the Environment
- CleanGredients®
- iSUSTAIN™
- GHS - Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals
- REACH

# Greener Chemicals and Processes Information Standard

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## Q: Will NSF offer certification to this standard and when will this service be available?

A: NSF will provide third-party certification to this standard by ensuring reports contain accurate, current, and complete information that will facilitate greener chemical choices. This service will be available once the standard has completed the ANSI process, anticipated in June 2011. Companies interested in piloting this standard, please contact us!

## Q: What are NSF International Standards?

A: NSF International develops consensus American National Standards to promote public health and safety. NSF standards are developed through involvement of stakeholders affected by the standard. The process ensures balanced input from industry representatives, public health/regulatory officials, user/consumers representatives, and other relevant interest groups.

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredits NSF as a standards developer, which means NSF standards are developed ensuring openness and due process allowing for equity and fair play.

## Contact

For additional information on the standard, contact Mindy Costello at [mcostello@nsf.org](mailto:mcostello@nsf.org), 734-827-6819.

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### About NSF

NSF International has been testing and certifying products for safety, health and the environment for more than 65 years ([www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org)). As an independent, not-for-profit organization, NSF's mission is to protect public health and the environment through standards development, inspection, testing and certification for the food, water, build/construction, retail, chemical and health science industries. Operating in more than 120 countries, NSF is committed to protecting public health worldwide and is a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Food and Water Safety and Indoor Environment.



NSF Sustainability draws upon this expertise in standards development, product assurance and certification, advisory services and quality systems management to help companies green their products, operations, systems and supply chains. NSF, through the **National Center for Sustainability Standards (NCSS)**, has

developed sustainability standards for: green chemicals, building products and materials and drinking water quality. NSF works with leading regulators, scientists, engineers, public health and environmental health professionals and members of the industry representatives to develop these transparent, consensus-based standards.



### About ACS GCI

ACS is a congressionally chartered independent membership organization which represents professionals at all degree levels and in all fields of chemistry and sciences that involve chemistry. The mission of the ACS Green Chemistry Institute® (ACS GCI) is to enable and catalyze the implementation of green chemistry and engineering throughout the global chemical enterprise. After more than a year of planning by individuals from industry, government, and academia, the Green Chemistry Institute was incorporated in 1997 as a not-for-profit 501(c)3 corporation devoted to promoting and advancing green chemistry. On January 1, 2001, the ACS Green Chemistry Institute® became part of ACS operations in Washington, DC. The two organizations joined to pursue their joint interests in the discovery and design of chemical products and processes that eliminate generation and use of hazardous substances.

The ACS Green Chemistry Institute® as a think-tank provides knowledge to address global issues affecting the intersection of chemistry, business and the environment. From its earliest days, the Institute has sought to be the premier change agent. ACS GCI is motivated by the conviction that green chemistry is a fundamental building block in the efforts to create a sustainable economy. Every year it hosts the Green Chemistry and Engineering Conference, the only U.S. conference focused exclusively on pollution prevention approaches in chemical synthesis and processing in industry. Other noteworthy programs include the Industrial Roundtables and an online bi-monthly newsletter, *The Nexus*.