

NSF/ANSI 336



Sustainability Assured for Commercial Furnishings Fabric

NSF/ANSI 336 Sustainability Assessment for Commercial Furnishings Fabric is the principal standard used to evaluate and certify sustainability of commercial furnishing fabrics over their entire product life cycle.

NSF's Sustainable Product Solutions provides certification to the *NSF/ANSI 336 Sustainability Assessment for Commercial Furnishings Fabric*. This U.S. national standard was developed by NSF through a consensus-based public process with a multi-stakeholder group of manufacturers, suppliers, regulatory agencies, customers, end users, academia and other industry participants. The purpose of this standard is to address the environmental, economic and social aspects of furnishing fabric products, including woven, non-woven, bonded and knitted fabrics for furniture upholstery, vertical window, panel system or wall treatments, and decorative top of bed applications commonly used in institutional, hospitality and office settings. The standard also incorporates life cycle assessment criteria, which measures inputs, outputs and environmental impacts of textile products across their entire lifespan.

Standard 336 Overview

Based on life-cycle assessment principles, NSF/ANSI 336 employs an easy-to-use point system to evaluate furnishing fabric against established prerequisite requirements, performance criteria and quantifiable metrics in eight key areas:

- Fiber Sourcing
- Water Quality
- Energy
- Safety of Materials
- Social Accountability
- Recycling Practices in Manufacturing/End of Use
- Water Conservation
- Air Quality

For example, *Fiber Sourcing* criteria include points for use of fibers with renewable, recycled or organic content and fibers with reduced toxic chemical inputs. Criteria examples in *Recycling Practices in Manufacturing and End of Use* award points for the manufacturer if the product belongs to a take-back program through which it can be actively reclaimed.

The maximum number of points that can be awarded to a fabric under NSF/ANSI 336 is 100.

- 50% of points address fabric composition including fiber sourcing and safety of materials.
- 50% of points address how the fabric is made including water conservation and water quality, energy, air quality, recycling practices in manufacturing and social accountability.



Certification to NSF/ANSI 336 is based on point totals to achieve a Conformant, Silver, Gold or Platinum level. Manufacturers certified by NSF are authorized to use the NSF Sustainability Certified Mark on their products and in their advertising. Monitoring and periodic reevaluation is required to maintain certification.

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Certification Benefits

Certification of products to this American National Standard allows manufacturers to:

- Distinguish “green” products from competitors and enhance their brand.
- Obtain preferred vendor status from those seeking sustainable solutions.
- Meet state and federal procurement guidelines.
- Achieve the most credible type of certification available in the marketplace.
- Save money by adopting more sustainable operational practices and business approaches.

Background

A partnership between NSF International and the Association for Contract Textiles began in 2006 to build a standard for a sustainability assessment of commercial furniture fabrics. The standard was developed over approximately a 4-year period with input from multiple stakeholders including representatives from manufacturers, suppliers, regulatory agencies, customers, end users, academia and other industry participants. This multi-stakeholder group worked to provide the commercial market with an easy-to-understand certification standard for commercial furnishing fabrics. The standard allows transparency and open understanding regarding conformance requirements, providing for more understandable and meaningful marketplace comparisons.

Contact Us

For more information about certification to NSF/ANSI 336, please contact NSF at +1 (734) 476-2543, internationally at 00 +1 (734) 476-2543 or by e-mail at sustainability@nsf.org.

To purchase a copy of NSF/ANSI 336, visit <http://www.techstreet.com/nsfgate.html>.

Sustainability Assured

NSF International has been testing and certifying products for safety, health and the environment for more than 65 years (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, building materials, retail, chemical and health science industries. Operating in more than 120 countries, NSF is committed to protecting public health worldwide.



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. Through its National Center for Sustainability Standards, NSF has developed sustainability standards for: chemicals, building products and materials and water quality. NSF works with leading regulators, scientists, engineers, public health and environmental health professionals, and industry representatives to develop these transparent, consensus-based standards.