



Roofing Industry Leader GAF the First to Achieve Third-Party Certification for Sustainable Roofing Membranes

NSF/ANSI 347 the Foundation for Sustainable Construction Materials Standards

presented by NSF Sustainability

A Sustainability Standard for the Industry

As the commercial building construction industry continues its evolution to more sustainable materials and methods, the demand grows for national sustainable product standards that are comprehensive, multi-attribute and segment-specific. To help meet the construction industry's needs, NSF International has developed an American National Standard for Sustainable Single Ply Roofing Membranes, the waterproofing layer used for both vegetative and conventional roofing systems.

NSF/ANSI 347, *Sustainability Assessment for Single Ply Roofing Membranes*, enables roofing manufacturers to demonstrate their commitment to sustainable product development while simultaneously differentiating their brand in the marketplace. The standard is the first of its kind in the building envelope industry in North America. In addition to serving as a useful tool for policymakers, designers and end users, the standard is expected to provide the foundation for other construction material standards.

First To Certify



GAF, North America's largest roofing manufacturer, is the first company to certify to NSF/ANSI 347. Based on the rigors set by the standard, GAF's EverGuard® TPO Roofing Membranes earned Conformant certification¹.

"We are making a commitment to sustainability throughout our organization, from our products to our manufacturing processes to our corporate operations," says GAF Director of Sustainability, Marty Grohman. "Pursuing the successful certification of this key commercial product was a logical step for GAF to take."

Creating the Standard

NSF developed the new standard in partnership with a diverse group of stakeholders through the NSF National

NSF/ANSI 347 in a Nutshell

NSF/ANSI 347: *Sustainability Assessment for Single Ply Roofing Membranes* is the foremost standard to evaluate and certify the sustainability of roofing membranes.

Manufacturers earn points for key criteria and their point totals define the certification level of their product as Conformant, Silver, Gold or Platinum.

Center for Sustainability Standards (NCSS), employing an American National Standards Institute (ANSI)-accredited consensus process. Manufacturers, suppliers, regulatory officials, academia, industry representatives and end-users provided the input that drove the development of NSF/ANSI 347. NSF has used this approach across a wide range of product categories including chemicals, commercial furnishings, flooring, building products and materials, and water treatment and distribution systems.

Companies, organizations and governments alike recognize NSF/ANSI sustainability assessment standards to identify and specify sustainable products. Sustainability standards have become increasingly important in the government sector in recent years: the U.S. Government Services Administration (GSA) is working to comply with Executive Order 13514, which requires 95 percent of all new contracts to include products and services with more sustainable features. A number of these features are also identified as criteria in NSF/ANSI 347.

How NSF/ANSI 347 Certification Works

The certification process begins with an evaluation of a company's environmental and social data and proceeds to on-site audits at the company's manufacturing facilities. Roofing membranes included in the 347 standard are produced from EPDM (Ethylene Propylene Diene Terpolymer), KEE (Ketone Ethylene Ester), PVC (Poly[Vinyl Chloride]), TPO (thermoplastic polyolefin), and PIB (Polyisobutylene) polymers. NSF Sustainability evaluates the materials, final



products and organization in several key categories, including:

- **Product Design** - Integration of environmental and life cycle thinking into the product design process
- **Product Manufacturing** - Quantification of the environmental impacts from manufacturing, and actions to reduce or eliminate those impacts
- **Membrane Durability** - Membrane physical properties, service life, and repairability
- **Corporate Governance** - Human rights, child labor, forced labor, employee safety and education, and community responsibility
- **Innovation** - New, innovative or quantifiable ideas that promote environmental benefits toward the development, manufacturing, end use, and reclamation

Certification to NSF/ANSI 347 is based on point totals to achieve a Conformant, Silver, Gold or Platinum level certification. Manufacturers certified by NSF earn the use of the NSF Sustainability Certified Mark on their products, in their advertising, and their certified products will be listed on [NSF's website](#).

GAF's Grohman found the certification experience "more thorough than we initially anticipated, but our relationship with NSF was phenomenal. We learned a lot in pulling the information together, but it was more than just exchanging emails. To have NSF staff on-site visiting the plant and asking good questions in order to understand our process was critical. Knowing what we went through to earn the certification makes it much more meaningful."

Benefits for the Industry

"The roofing industry, along with the entire building construction sector, is expected to accelerate its transition to more sustainable products and practices," NSF's Maureen Sertich, Standards Specialist says. "NSF/ANSI 347 and the sustainability standards that follow it will provide architects, designers and contractors with the information they need to make informed choices when it comes to selecting products for their sustainable attributes."

GAF is highlighting NSF/ANSI 347 certification at the 2012 Greenbuild Expo in San Francisco, and likewise is making it a focal point of GAF's national sales meeting in January 2013. "We're very excited about it," Marty Grohman acknowledges. "It was important to us to be first in the roofing industry to reach this milestone. We're focusing on architects and specifiers in a very competitive market. To have achieved third-party certification of a leading commercial roofing product shows we're serious about our commitment to sustainability."

To find out more about certification to the NSF/ANSI 347 call 734-476-2543 or contact sustainability@nsf.org.



¹ Excluded from the certification are EverGuard® Freedom™ TPO (gray), EverGuard® Steep Slope TPO (white), EverGuard® TPO FB Ultra (gray), EverGuard® TPO Regal Blue, EverGuard® TPO Regal Red

About NSF International



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 organization, NSF's mission is to protect public health and the environment through standards development, inspection, management systems auditing, testing and certification for industries including food, water, building materials, retail, chemicals, automotive, aerospace, consumer products and health sciences. 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 management systems to help companies green their products, operations, systems and supply chains. NSF, through the National Center for Sustainability Standards, 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 industry representatives to develop these transparent, consensus-based standards.