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 certification.

“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 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
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.”

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

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