



## NSC 373 Sustainability Assessment for Natural Dimension Stone

*by the Natural Stone Council in association with NSF Sustainability*

**NSC 373** establishes criteria for the natural stone industry to measure the extent to which natural stone is produced sustainably. Developed by the Natural Stone Council in association with Ecoform, an independent consultant, and NSF through the National Center for Sustainability Standards (NCSS), this standard establishes a set of well-defined environmental, ecological, social responsibility and human health requirements for stone quarries and processors.

### GENUINE STONE



With the development of NSC 373, facility operators can apply the standard to quarry operations, stone fabrication, or both for full certification. Businesses can also consider chain of custody (NSC COC) compliance through their entire supply chain. If your company is engaged in both quarrying and stone fabricating, you can elect to certify either the quarry or fabrication operations, or both, but each will be evaluated separately for conformance to the standard. By achieving certification to NSC 373, quarries and processors can meet green building industry demands for more sustainably produced stone products.

### Contact

To get more information about the NSC 373 standard or certification, email [info@naturalstonecouncil.org](mailto:info@naturalstonecouncil.org) or visit NSC's website at [www.naturalstonecouncil.org/education-training/nsc-initiatives/dimensional-stone-standard](http://www.naturalstonecouncil.org/education-training/nsc-initiatives/dimensional-stone-standard)

**How Certification Works** The standard is a point based system with prerequisite and optional criteria in the nine categories outlined below. Each facility operator meeting all of the prerequisite criteria can earn a bronze certification. Silver (8+ optional), gold (+15 optional) and platinum (+22 optional) require an increasing number of optional criteria be met for certification.

- Energy
- Water
- Transportation
- Site management
- Land reclamation and adaptive reuse
- Management of excess process materials and waste
- Corporate governance
- Safer chemical and materials management
- Human health and safety

NSF can help stone quarries and processors through certification providing a value-added service with the marketing advantage of a product sustainability certification dedicated to your marketplace.



## Questions and Answers about NSC 373

### **Q: Who developed the NSC 373 Standard and the NSC 373 Certification Program?**

**A:** NSC 373 Standard is a collaborative effort of NSF through the National Center for Sustainability Standards (NCSS) as the standards writing body in partnership with Ecoform and the Natural Stone Council as the standard owner. Using an American National Standards Institute (ANSI)-accredited consensus process, the standard was developed with input from various stakeholders including the stone industry, government, environmental advocacy, academia, green building and design groups. The combination of NSC 373 certification and NSC COC can help quarries, processors and distributors achieve preferred vendor status.

### **Q: What is the purpose of the NSC 373 Standard?**

**A:** The purpose of the Sustainability Assessment for Natural Dimension Stone is to recognize sustainability practices in the natural stone industry – practices many members already follow but don't document or promote. This voluntary standard will give quarries and primary processing plants the ability to certify their operations as sustainable.

### **Q: What are the requirements for certification to NSC 373?**

**A:** NSF provides certification to the new NSC standard by evaluating the natural stone quarrying and fabrication operations in several key impact categories including: energy, water, transportation, site management, land reclamation and adaptive reuse, management of excess process materials and waste, corporate governance, safer chemical and materials management, and human health and safety.

Certification to NSC 373 is based on point totals to achieve a Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum level certification. Monitoring and periodic re-evaluation is required to maintain certification.



**Natural Stone Council (NSC)**, a not-for-profit organization, was formed in 2003 to unite a diverse industry of natural stone producers to actively promote the attributes of natural stone in commercial, residential, government, institutional, educational and all types of applications interior and exterior, and to proactively position natural stone as the premier construction material. The Natural Stone Council is comprised of twelve organizations representing every type of dimensional stone quarried and fabricated in the United States.

## 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](http://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.