

NSF Standards Update



Participation in the Development/Revision of NSF Standards

NSF International Standards

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

NSF is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) to develop American National Standards. As an audited designator, NSF has authorization from the ANSI Executive Standards Council to designate its standards as ANSI Standards without review and approval by the ANSI Board of Standards Review. ANSI's accreditation verifies that NSF develops standards to ensure openness and due process allowing for equity and fair play.

How to Participate in Developing or Revising an NSF Standard

The first step is to notify ANSI that a standard is being developed, reviewed or revised. ANSI requires all accredited standard developers to provide public notification of every standards project. This notification is published in ANSI's Standards Action in the "Project Initiation Notification System" (PINS) section. By monitoring PINS, which includes the scopes of the projects and contact information, readers will know which standards are under development or under revision by accredited U.S. developers.

Participation is available through many levels of involvement:

- Membership on a Joint Committee, the balanced consensus body responsible for development and revision of NSF/ANSI Standards;
- Membership on a Task Group, a committee which provides recommendations to the responsible Joint Committee on a specific issue;
- Attendance at Joint Committee or Task Group meetings as an observer;
- Submittal of public review and comment through ANSI; and
- Submittal of an issue document to suggest revision to an NSF/ANSI Standard.

ANSI procedures require a public review period for all proposed standards in Standards Action. All drafts are announced in the "Call for Comments" section. Revisions to current and newly adopted standards are announced in the "Final Actions" section. To subscribe to Standards Action, visit the ANSI website at <http://www.ansi.org>.

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NSF/ANSI Standards are continuously reviewed and revised to ensure that they are current with the latest technology and industry practices. The standards development process is supported by a web-based collaboration tool. Publicly-available standards development information can be accessed at <http://standards.nsf.org>. Final standards may be purchased at <http://www.techstreet.com/nsfgate.html>.

NSF's expertise to work with diverse groups in the development of voluntary consensus documents is available to organizations that have a need for such experience. If you are looking for a highly-credible resource to assist in documentation development through ANSI's consensus standards process, contact Jane Wilson, NSF Standards Director, at wilson@nsf.org or 734.827.6835 to start the process.

NSF Joint Committees

NSF's Joint Committees, consisting of public health, industry and user members, are consensus bodies responsible for:

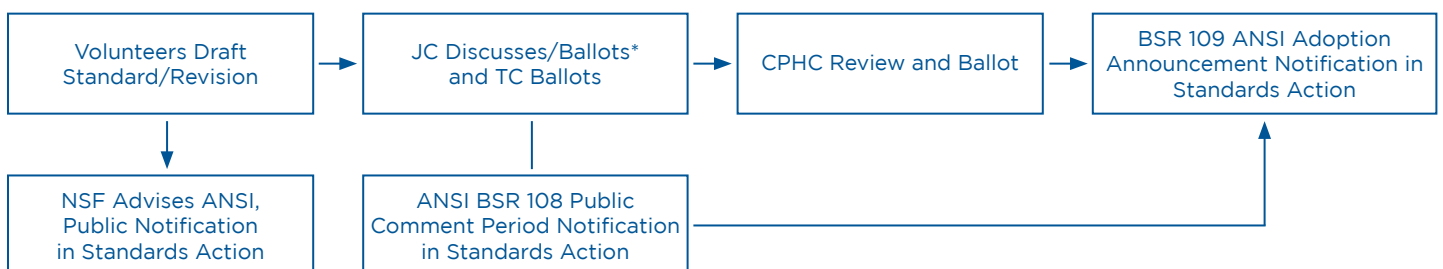
- Proposing NSF Standards consistent with NSF's mission;
- Voting on approval of proposed NSF Standards;
- Ensuring public health, safety and environmental issues are properly addressed in standards;
- Responding to requests for interpretations of NSF Standards; and
- Other matters requiring consensus body action.

NSF Council of Public Health Consultants

A unique feature of the NSF process is the review of all standards by the NSF Council of Public Health Consultants. The Council of Public Health Consultants is composed of representatives from professional organizations, Federal and state regulatory officials, academic institutions and other nationally or internationally-recognized individuals who have demonstrated leadership in the public health and environmental fields. The Council provides advice to NSF:

- In developing standards to serve the protection of public health;
- Reviewing and balloting all new standards and revisions of existing standards; and by
- Chairing specific Joint Committees to provide a liaison between the Council and Joint Committees.

NSF Standards Development Process



* Substantive comments that come out of the public comment period or any step beyond the Joint Committee are sent back to the Joint Committee for resolution.

ANSI - American National Standards Institute
BSR - Board of Standards Review
CPHC - Council of Public Health Consultants
JC - Joint Committee
TC - Technical Committee