

SUSTAINABLE BUILDING PRODUCTS & FURNISHINGS



OVERVIEW

Manufacturers in the building products and furnishings sector face ever-increasing requests from customers to provide information on performance aspects like water and energy use, air quality and recycling practices, to social accountability and human health and safety aspects.

NSF has helped thousands of manufacturers obtain both local and international market access by evaluating products to the requirements of numerous product standards that address a number of sustainability metrics.

In addition, certification can contribute towards sustainable building ratings, such as LEED, WELL Certification, or Living Building Challenge. Four of NSF International's standards are included in the U.S. EPA's federal purchasing recommendations, which help federal purchasers identify and procure environmentally sustainable products and services.

MATERIAL/INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC CERTIFICATIONS

Stone

ANSI/NSC 373: Sustainable Production of Natural Dimension Stone establishes criteria to measure the extent to which natural stone is produced sustainably using a life cycle approach. The standard is applicable to quarriers and processors of natural dimension stone.

Carpet

NSF/ANSI 140: Sustainability Assessment for Carpet provides a market-based definition and path to more sustainable carpet through performance requirements for the individual product and the manufacturing organization. In fact, the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) requires all broadloom and carpet tile purchased by the U.S. government to be certified to NSF/ANSI 140 at the gold certification level. Certification is based on point totals to achieve a silver, gold or platinum level.

Wallcoverings

NSF/ANSI 342: Sustainability Assessment for Wallcovering Products allows companies to evaluate and certify the sustainability of wallcovering products across their entire life cycle to certification levels conformant, silver, gold or platinum. The standard covers materials such as textiles, vinyl, alternative polymer (or vinyl- or alternative polymer-coated), paper and other natural fiber products.

Furniture

LEVEL® offers an open and transparent means of evaluating and communicating the environmental and social impacts of furniture products in the built environment. The LEVEL program has three performance tiers; LEVEL 1, 2, and 3. The higher the number, the more criteria considered and met.

Additional Sectors

NSF also offers sustainability certifications for resilient flooring (NSF/ANSI 332) and single-ply roofing (NSF/ANSI 347).

CERTIFICATION PROCESS

In most cases, the certification process follows a few simple steps.

1. Complete the application process and submit signed documents to NSF.
2. Submit documentation for an off-site document review.
3. An off-site documentation review is conducted, feedback and data analysis provided prior to the on-site audit.
4. On-site audit of the manufacturing facility(s) conducted
5. Once all follow-up is complete, certification is granted, and certified products are listed on the NSF website.
6. Annual surveillance audits scheduled and notification of recertification.



EPDs AND LEEDv4.1

LEEDv4.1 was launched in December 2018 for beta project use. The updated MR Credit: *Building product disclosure and optimization—environmental product declarations* has numerous pathways for companies to earn additional points for beginning to optimize their products and reduce life cycle impacts through LCA & EPDs.

- > **Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) Verification:** NSF provides EPD verification across multiple product groups and industries, verifying conformance of the EPD to ISO 14025 and the relevant PCR.
- > **EPD Action Plan:** The manufacturer writes a product-specific (as defined by PCR) action plan to reduce life cycle impacts, which includes a description of the LCA, identification of the largest impact areas and those targeted for reduction, the steps to be taken and a timeline for completion. The Action Plan is then critically reviewed by NSF.

To qualify, a manufacturer must have an existing product-specific LCA complying with EN 15804 or ISO 21930.

- > **EPD Optimization:** EPD Optimization (or Life Cycle Impact Reductions in Embodied Carbon) involves demonstrating a reduction in global warming potential (GWP) through either two verified LCAs or two verified EPDs for comparison for a specific product. This comparative analysis shows the decisions and actions taken to reduce GWP impacts, validation period and type of assessment methodology for the LCAs/EPDs, and additional LCA development details. There are three options to earn LEED points through this option and is ideal for clients renewing an EPD (since one is needed for comparison).
- > **Chemical Action Plan:** A product-specific plan that includes a description of the screening or assessment platform used to complete the screening and analysis as well as a written narrative describing the immediate and long-term actions that will be pursued to reduce hazards. NSF will then review the action plan to ensure that it contains the required information.

NSF INTERNATIONAL

789 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105 USA | **T** +1 734 769 8010 | **E** sustainability@nsf.org

www.nsf.org