

CERTIFICATION VS. COMPLIANCE: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?



Although the terms **certification** and **compliance** sound similar, they are, in fact, quite different. When a company makes the claim that it is compliant with an NSF standard, it is stating that the product adheres to the requirements of the standard but it does not communicate how or by whom compliance was determined. Certification means that an independent third party has physically evaluated, tested and certified the product to be in conformance with all the requirements of the standard.

COMPLIANCE

When a company claims compliance, it is more than likely a self-claim and it may or may not be valid. A product certified by NSF International, on the other hand, provides proof of compliance and lets you know the company adheres to the strict standards and procedures imposed by NSF and its accreditation organizations.

CERTIFICATION

From extensive product testing and material analyses to plant inspections, every aspect of a product's development is thoroughly evaluated before it can earn NSF certification. Most importantly, NSF certification is not a one-time event, but involves regular on-site audits of manufacturing facilities and regular surveillance of products to ensure that they continue to meet the same high standards required to maintain certification over time. If for any reason a product fails to meet one or more certification criteria, NSF requires that the identified issue is resolved within a specified timeframe in order to maintain certification.

Products that earn NSF certification may claim to be "NSF certified" or "NSF listed" and will display the applicable NSF certification mark to show that they have been certified by one of today's most respected independent product testing and certification organizations.



NSF CERTIFICATION LANGUAGE

- > "NSF certified/NSF listed"
- > "Certified by NSF"
- > "Tested and certified by NSF"
- > "Tested and certified by NSF International"
- > "ABC company's product is certified by NSF to NSF/ANSI #"

COMPLIANCE LANGUAGE

- > "Compliant with NSF/ANSI #"
- > "Tested to the requirements of NSF/ANSI #"
- > "Meets the requirements of NSF/ANSI #"
- > "ABC company's products x has been evaluated against NSF/ANSI #"

To verify a product has been certified by NSF, visit the official listings: www.nsf.org/certified-products-systems.

NSF INTERNATIONAL

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