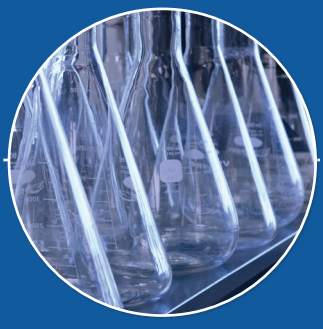
NSF International Standard /
American National Standard

NSF/ANSI 140 - 2007e

Sustainable Carpet Assessment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NSF International Standard/
American National Standard
for Sustainability —

Sustainable carpet assessment

Standard Developer
NSF International

Adopted October 26, 2007
NSF International Board of Directors

Designated as an ANSI Standard
October 26, 2007
American National Standards Institute

Prepared by
The NSF Joint Committee on Sustainable Carpet

Recommended for Adoption by
The NSF Council of Public Health Consultants

Adopted by
The NSF Board of Directors
October 2007

Published by

NSF International
P. O. Box 130140, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48113-0140, USA

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Contents

Foreword[2]

This American National Standard, NSF/ANSI 140 Sustainable Carpet Assessment Standard, has been developed as part of the ongoing efforts of a number of interested parties to document and improve the sustainability profile of carpet and rug products using established and/or advanced scientific principles, practices, materials, and standards. Stakeholders involved in developing the Standard included carpet and rug manufacturers, end users such as interior design professionals, state agencies responsible for environmentally preferable product procurement practices, academics, and non-governmental organizations.

The purpose of the Sustainable Carpet Assessment Standard is to establish consistent requirements for sustainable carpet products. These requirements are intended to form the basis of conformity assessment programs, such as third-party certification or registration.

The Sustainable Carpet Assessment Standard has been designed, in part, to satisfy the following criteria:

– Demonstrate how carpet and rug products can conform to the environmental, economic, and social principles of sustainability throughout the supply chain.

– Demonstrate conformance with ISO Type 1 (ISO 14024) and Type 2 (ISO 14021) environmental labelling and declaration requirements.

– Demonstrate conformance with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims.

– Engender confidence in the various stakeholders (manufacturers, suppliers, regulators, and consumers) that products labeled with a third party certification mark consistently meet the requirements of this program.

– Encourage participation by all manufacturers of carpets and rugs to maximize impact reductions and enhance environmental accomplishments.

This Standard does not address carpet packaging or the adhesives and padding that may be used in the installation of carpet products. This Standard does not address the cleanability of carpet products. Consideration will be given to the inclusion of these components of carpeting systems in this Standard as sustainability criteria are developed for these adjunct products and processes.

This is an editorial revision of NSF/ANSI 140-2007. Because there have been questions raised regarding the implications of the term “environmentally preferable product” (EPP) as it relates to carpet products and the sustainability achievement levels as defined in NSF/ANSI 140 – 2007, this term has been disassociated with the Gold and Platinum levels. References to EPP have been removed only with respect to the carpet product achievement levels. This change has no impact on the defined requirements for compliance to the standard and affects only the achievement level descriptors.

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NSF/ANSI Standard
for Sustainability —

Sustainable carpet assessment

1 General

1.1 Purpose and goals

The purpose of this Standard is to provide a market-based definition for a path to sustainable carpet, to establish performance requirements for public health and environment, and to address the triple bottom line, economic-environmental-social, throughout the supply chain.

The goals of this Standard are to:

– increase the economic value of sustainable carpet throughout the supply chain by enhancing market demand for sustainable carpet products;

– provide information that enables specifiers to sort out the complex information on sustainability attributes;

– identify other consensus-based standards relevant to sustainable carpet;

– educate and instruct all stakeholders in the carpet supply chain; and

– encourage competition between manufacturers and their suppliers to seek out or develop environmentally preferable processes, practices, power sources, and materials.

This Standard is intended to help raw material suppliers, converters, manufacturers, and end-users. Adherence to this Standard and achievement of high levels of sustainable attribute performance can or should result in:

– credits from LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) for Commercial Interiors, e.g., Indoor Environmental Quality credit 4.3, Materials and Resources credit 4, Innovation and Design credit 1);

– design innovation;

– product differentiation;

– improved customer satisfaction;

– product innovation;

– improved indoor air quality and lower emissions;

– ecological restoration;

– enhanced health and safety for workers and consumers; and

– measurable reductions in total environmental impact.

1.2 Scope

This Standard is intended to enable organizations throughout the carpet supply chain to apply performance requirements to achieve sustainable attributes and demonstrate compliance with levels of achievement through quantifiable metrics. The Standard is inclusive, is based on life cycle assessment (LCA) principles, and provides benchmarks for continuous improvement and innovation.

This Standard is intended to allow inclusive participation and encourage the progressive movement of the carpet industry toward sustainability. This Standard identifies requirements of sustainable attribute performance and three levels of achievement by which carpet materials and products can be measured with respect to specific attributes that indicate progress toward sustainability.

While this Standard can be used on any carpet product, it is intended to be used for evaluation of commercial carpet products by providing a product evaluation methodology that is additive to emerging commercial green building standards.

This Standard does not apply to the packaging of sustainable carpets or to the adhesive or padding products used in the installation of carpet products.

This Standard is voluntary, but emphasizes disclosure of information on both impacts and benefits of a carpet or carpet product from an environmental and sustainability perspective.

All products or processes can be found compliant to this Standard if they are able to achieve all prerequisites and score the minimum required for compliance as specified in 4.

2 Normative references and tools

The following documents contain provisions that, through reference, constitute provisions of this NSF/ANSI Standard. At the time this Standard was balloted, the editions listed below were valid. All documents are subject to revision, and parties are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the recent editions of the documents indicated below.

2.1 Normative references

American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC) Test Method 134-2006, Electrostatic Propensity of Carpets[3]

American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC) Test Method 189-2002 Fluorine Content of Carpet Fibers[3]

American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC) Test Method 16-2004 Colorfastness to Light[3]

ASTM International (ASTM) D5252-05, Standard Practice for the Operation of the Hexapod Drum Tester[4]

ASTM International (ASTM) D1335-05, Standard Test Method for Tuft Bind of Pile Yarn Floor Coverings[4]

[3] www.aatcc.org
[4] www.astm.org