



*NSF International Standard /
American National Standard*

NSF/ANSI 173 - 2008 Addendum

Dietary Supplements



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American National Standard
for Dietary Supplements —

Dietary supplements

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Contents

5.3	Contaminants.....	1
7.4	Test methods for chemical contaminants.....	2

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Foreword²

The purpose of NSF/ANSI 173 is to serve as an evaluation tool for analyzing dietary supplements. Certification to this Standard serves as a communication tool between manufacturers of ingredients and finished product, retailers, healthcare practitioners, and consumers. This Standard provides test methods and evaluation criteria to allow for the determination that a dietary supplement contains the ingredients claimed on the label, either qualitatively or quantitatively, and that it does not contain specific undeclared contaminants. In some instances, validated laboratory methods are not yet available for analyzing certain ingredients. In such cases, new methods will be added to this Standard as they become available.

NSF/ANSI 173 was developed with participation from the dietary supplements industry, public health regulators, and distributors of dietary supplements. Participation and technical guidance was provided by representatives of the American Herbal Products Association, the American Pharmaceutical Association, the Consumer Healthcare Products Association, the Council for Responsible Nutrition, the National Institutes of Health, and the National Nutritional Foods Association.

This version (NSF/ANSI 173 – 2008 Addendum) includes issue 20, revisions to sections which address industrial contaminants.

NSF offers a certification program to this Standard. Products certified by NSF carry the NSF Mark, the leading mark in public health and safety certification around the world. The NSF Mark on a product gives consumers and retailers assurance that the product meets the requirements of the NSF Standard. For more information on the NSF certification program, please contact the General Manager of Dietary Supplements, P.O. Box 130140, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48113-0140 or at 734-769-8010.

Suggestions for improvement of this Standard are welcome. Comments should be sent to Chair, Dietary Supplements, c/o NSF International, Standards Department, P.O. Box 130140, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48113-0140, USA.

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NSF International Standard for Dietary Supplements —

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5.3 Contaminants

5.3.1 Metals

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5.3.3 Microbiological contaminants

Raw materials shall not contain aflatoxins at levels greater than 20 ng/g (ppb) and shall not contain microorganisms in quantities greater than permitted in tables 5A and 5B.

Finished products shall not contain aflatoxins at levels greater than 20 ng/g (ppb) and shall not contain microorganisms in quantities greater than permitted in tables 6A and 6B.

Finished products in a liquid form with an alcohol content less than or equal to 50% shall not contain *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

Finished products with an alcohol content greater than or equal to 50% are exempt from microbial testing.

5.3.4 Natural toxins

Botanicals listed in annex A shall not contain aristolochic acid (limit of detection is 0.5 µg/g).

5.3.5 Known adulterants

Products shall be evaluated to ensure that they do not contain known adulterants including, but not limited to, the following:

- *Eleutherococcus senticosus* shall not contain *Periploca sepium* root.
- *Plantago lanceolata* shall not contain *Digitalis lanata* leaf.
- *Scutellaria lateriflora* shall not contain *Teucrium chamaedrys*.
- *Stephania tetrandia* shall not contain *Aristolochia fangchi*.

5.3.6 Industrial Contaminants

For ingredients and products containing natural fish oil, manufacturers shall have controls in place to screen for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polychlorinated dibenzo-para-dioxins (PCDDs), polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDFs) and dioxin-like PCBs in the oil ingredient.