



*NSF International Standard /  
American National Standard*

## NSF/ANSI 332 - 2015

Sustainability Assessment for  
Resilient Floor Coverings



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NSF International Standard/  
American National Standard  
for Sustainability —

## **Sustainability assessment for resilient floor coverings**

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## Contents

1	General.....	1
1.1	Purpose .....	1
1.2	Scope .....	1
1.3	Principles.....	2
2	Normative References.....	2
3	Definitions.....	6
4	Conformance, evaluation, and assessment criteria.....	7
4.1	Elements.....	7
4.2	Prerequisites.....	7
4.3	Scoring methodology.....	7
4.4	Procedures for labeling and reporting.....	8
5	Product(s) design.....	8
5.1	Purpose .....	8
5.2	Enlightened design process .....	9
5.3	Environmentally sustainable material inputs.....	10
5.4	Human and ecologically friendly inputs.....	11
5.5	Informed selection of suppliers.....	12
6	Product(s) manufacturing.....	13
6.1	Purpose .....	13
6.2	Environmental policy and management.....	13
6.3	Conservation of energy resources.....	14
6.4	Management of water resources .....	15
6.5	Optimization of material resources .....	15
6.6	Protection of air resources.....	16
7	Long-term value.....	17
7.1	Purpose .....	17
7.2	Fitness of purpose .....	17
7.3	Protection of indoor air quality.....	17
7.4	Compatibility with green maintenance strategies.....	18
8	End of life management.....	18
8.1	Reclamation feasibility.....	18
8.2	Product(s) reclamation and stewardship.....	19
9	Corporate governance.....	20
9.1	Purpose .....	20
9.2	Public commitment to sustainability.....	20
9.3	Employer responsibility .....	21
9.4	Community engagement (plant level).....	22
9.5	Financial leadership (corporate level).....	23
10	Innovation.....	23
10.1	Scope.....	23
10.2	Innovation credit.....	23

Annex A .....	A1
Annex B .....	B1
Annex C .....	C1
Annex D .....	D1
Interpretations Annex.....	Interpretations 1



## Foreword<sup>2</sup>

This American National Standard, NSF/ANSI 332 Sustainability Assessment for Resilient Floor Coverings Standard, has been developed as part of the ongoing efforts of interested parties to document and improve the sustainability profile of resilient floor coverings using established and/or advanced scientific principles, practices, materials, and standards. Stakeholders involved in developing the Standard included resilient floor covering manufacturers, end users such as consultants and certifiers, state agencies responsible for environmentally preferable product procurement practices, academics, and non-governmental organizations.

The purpose of the Sustainability Assessment for Resilient Floor Coverings Standard is a thorough communication of information that is verifiable, accurate, and not misleading about environmental and social aspects associated with the production and use of resilient floor coverings.

The Sustainability Assessment for Resilient Floor Coverings Standard has been designed, in part, to satisfy the following criteria:

- Product design through encouraging manufacturers to integrate environmental and life-cycle thinking into the product(s) design process.
- Product manufacturing encouraging manufacturers to quantify the environmental impacts from their manufacturing, and then act to reduce or remove those impacts.
- Long term value encouraging manufacturers to maximize product(s) longevity.
- End of life management ensuring that existing and new resilient flooring products can be collected, processed, recycled, and/or composted within the existing materials recycling infrastructure.
- Corporate governance encouraging corporate social responsibility in the forms of providing a desirable workplace, being involved in the local community, and demonstrating financial health.
- Innovation to give manufacturers the opportunity to be awarded points for exceptional performance above the requirements set forth in this Standard.

As used in this Standard, “resilient floor coverings” includes, but is not limited to, vinyl tile, vinyl composition tile, sheet vinyl, rubber, polymeric, and linoleum flooring products in which the wearing surface is non-textile. Also included are flooring accessories such as wall base, moldings, and stair treads. The Standard is applicable to products manufactured in one facility or multiple facilities, one country or multiple countries.

This version of the standard includes the following revision:

### **Issue 8 – Normative References and Environmental Product Declarations**

This ballot added language to clarify when a reference is undated the most recent version is the default and also addressed section 5.2.4 to promote a company’s ability to receive recognition that has developed an EPD to the flooring PCR.

Suggestions for improvement of this Standard are welcome. This Standard is maintained on a Continuous Maintenance schedule and can be opened for comment at any time. Comments should be sent to Chair, Joint Committee on Resilient Flooring, NSF International, National Center for Sustainability Standards at [ncss@nsf.org](mailto:ncss@nsf.org), or P.O. Box 130140, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48113-0140, USA.

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NSF/ANSI Standard  
For Sustainability

## **Sustainability assessment for resilient floor coverings**

### **1 General**

#### **1.1 Purpose**

The overall purpose of this Standard is a thorough communication of information that is verifiable, accurate, and not misleading about environmental and social aspects associated with the production and use of resilient floor coverings. Such communication is expected to encourage the demand for and supply of products that cause less stress on the environment and society, thereby stimulating the potential for market-driven continuous improvement.

This Standard is intended to be science based, provide transparency, and offer credibility for manufacturers in making claims of environmental preferability and sustainability, and to harmonize the principles and procedures used to support such claims.

This Standard provides a practice for assessing the sustainability of resilient floor coverings. Sustainability-related information can inform a manufacturer's decisions about supply chain modifications, product(s) content changes, manufacturing adjustments, performance improvements, end-of-life options, and corporate governance, with the goal of producing more sustainable products.

This Standard addresses environmental performance and sustainability attributes (including social aspects) of products, and provides a means to track incremental changes to the products' sustainability profile. This Standard is intended to provide a consistent framework in which to compare and assess the sustainable nature of different products within the context of performing similar functions.

This Standard is intended to be used primarily by product(s) manufacturers interested in understanding the sustainability performance of their product(s). Independent auditors, certification bodies and environmental labeling organizations are also potential users of this Standard for its use in supporting market-based environmental and sustainability claims. This Standard may also be used by purchasers and consumers who wish to ensure that manufacturers are accurately declaring the sustainable nature of their products.

#### **1.2 Scope**

This Standard establishes a consistent approach to the evaluation and determination of environmentally preferable and sustainable resilient floor coverings. The Standard includes relevant criteria across the product(s) life cycle from raw material extraction through manufacturing, use, and end-of-life management.

As used in this Standard, "resilient floor coverings" includes, but is not limited to, vinyl tile, vinyl composition tile, sheet vinyl, rubber, polymeric, and linoleum flooring products in which the wearing surface is non-textile. Also included are flooring accessories such as wall base, moldings, and stair treads. The Standard is applicable to products manufactured in one facility or multiple facilities, one country or multiple countries.