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# NSF/ANSI 336 - 2018

## Sustainability Assessment for Commercial Furnishings Fabric

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Chair, Joint Committee on Sustainable Textiles
c/o NSF International
789 North Dixboro Road, P. O. Box 130140
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48113-0140 USA
Phone: (734) 769-8010
Telex: 753215 NSF INTL
FAX: (734) 769-0109
E-mail: info@nsf.org
Web: http://www.nsf.org

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NSF International Standard/
American National Standard
for Sustainability —

# Sustainability assessment for commercial furnishings fabric

Standard Developer

**NSF International**

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## Foreword[2]

This American National Standard, NSF/ANSI 336 Sustainability Assessment for Commercial Furnishings Fabric, has been developed as part of the ongoing efforts of a number of interested parties to document and improve the sustainability profile of commercial fabric products using established and/or advanced scientific principles, practices, materials, and standards. Stakeholders involved in developing the Standard included textile mills, suppliers, 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 Sustainability Assessment for Commercial Furnishings Fabric Standard is to establish consistent requirements for sustainable commercial fabric products. These requirements are intended to form the basis of conformity assessment programs, such as third-party certification or registration.

The Sustainability Assessment for Commercial Furnishings Fabric Standard has been designed, in part, to satisfy the following criteria:

— increase the economic value of sustainable textiles throughout the supply chain by enhancing market demand for sustainable textile products

— provide information that enables specifiers to sort out the complex information on sustainable attributes

— identify other consensus based standards and sustainable textiles

— educate and instruct all stakeholders in the textiles supply chain

— encourage competition between the various aspects of the supply chain to seek out or develop environmentally preferable processes, practices, power sources, and materials.

— 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 commercial furnishings fabric to maximize impact reductions and enhance environmental accomplishments.

This edition of the Standard contains the following revisions:

**Issue 2**

Normative references were updated.

This Standard was developed by the NSF Joint Committee on Sustainable Textiles using the consensus process described by the American National Standards Institute.

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 Sustainable Textiles, NSF International, National Center for Sustainability Standards at 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 commercial furnishings fabric

## 1 General

### 1.1 Purpose

This voluntary assessment tool is to provide guidance to suppliers, manufacturers, purchasers, fabricators, product specifiers, and users to assess the level of sustainability of commercial furnishings fabric. This Standard sets levels of conformance for commercial furnishings fabric to address environmental, economic and social responsibility elements of sustainability. This Standard may be applied throughout select aspects of the commercial furnishings fabric supply chain as the scope of each sustainability parameter allows.

### 1.2 Scope

This Standard provides pathways toward sustainability by establishing measurable criteria for multiple levels of achievement. It allows manufacturers flexibility in methods for conformance and certification. This Standard assesses product characteristics in the areas of material and component inputs, water and energy use, recycling practices and social accountability. This version of the Standard does not include specific criteria for calculating carbon footprint nor does it cover transportation.

This Standard is applicable to commercial fabrics commonly used in public occupancy settings, such as office, hospitality, healthcare, and institutional interiors. These include but are not limited to upholstery, vertical fabric (furniture system, wall, drapery, and cubicle), and top of the bed fabrics. Fabrics may be formed by combining yarns, fibers, or filaments in a variety of ways including but not limited to woven, non-woven, knitted, bonded, felted, and composite materials. This Standard is applicable to fabrics manufactured in one or multiple facilities, in one or multiple countries.

While this Standard may be useful for applications beyond the commercial furnishings here outlined, the Standard is not intended to address fabrics developed for automotive, apparel, bedding, napery, toweling, military, medical or technical textiles applications.

A fabric in its final form is assessed according to this Standard. Any alterations made after the point of assessment, for example after-market treatments, will nullify the certification.

This Standard assumes compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. Some criteria in the Standard address activities that are also subject to regulation by local, state, or federal authorities. However, the standard does not change the regulatory requirements nor does it prescribe how compliance is to be achieved. Documentation of compliance with certain key regulations may be included in some sections of the Standard, but this in no way changes the underlying regulatory requirements.