NSF International Standard /
American National Standard

NSF/ANSI 342 - 2012

Sustainability Assessment for Wallcovering Products



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Chair, Joint Committee on Wallcovering Products
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

NSF International Standard/
American National Standard
for Sustainability —

Sustainability assessment for wallcovering products

Standard Developer
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Foreword[2]

This American National Standard, NSF/ANSI 342 Sustainability assessment for wallcovering products Standard, has been developed as part of the ongoing efforts of interested parties to document and improve the sustainability profile of wallcoverings using established and/or advanced scientific principles, practices, materials, and standards. Stakeholders involved in developing the Standard included wallcovering manufacturers, wallcovering distributors, 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 Wallcoverings 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 wallcoverings.

The Sustainability Assessment for Wallcoverings 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 wallcovering 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.

This edition of the Standard contains the following revision:

Issue 2

This revision updated the following sections:

- 5.2.1.2 – Environmental Considerations in Design for Distributors
- 5.3.1.2 – Inventory of Material Inputs for Distributors
- 5.3.3.1 and 5.3.3.2 – Environmentally Sustainable Inputs – Packaging for both the Manufacturers and Distributors
- 7.2.1 – Durability

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- 7.3.1 – Minimal long-term indoor volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions
- Removal of 7.3.3 – Minimal short term attachment systems and sealant emissions
- 9.3.6.1 and 9.3.6.2 – Prerequisite – Prohibition on child labor

Issue 3

This revision added 1.3.7 – Product Inventory, 4.2 – Product Selection, 4.4.7 – Manufacturing or Support Location Reporting. It updated 5.3.2.2 – Environmentally Sustainable Inputs – product for the Distributors, and 8.1.3.2 – Post-Consumer Collection Operations for Distributors.

Comments on this Standard should be sent to Chair, Joint Committee on Sustainable Wallcovering Products at ncss@nsf.org, or c/o NSF International, Standards Department, P.O. Box 130140, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48113-0140, USA.

NSF/ANSI Standard
for Sustainability —

Sustainability Assessment for Wallcovering Products

1 General

1.1 Purpose

The overall purpose of this Standard is to facilitate the thorough communication of information that is verifiable, accurate, and credible associated with the production, distribution, and use of wallcovering products. Such communication is expected to encourage the demand for and supply of products that cause less impact on the environment and society, thereby stimulating the potential for market-driven continuous improvement. The standard is voluntary and encourages inclusive participation in the production and distribution of sustainable wallcovering products within the supply chain.

This Standard is intended to be science based, provide transparency and offer creditibility for manufacturers and distributors 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 wallcovering manufacturing and distribution processes. Sustainability-related information can inform a manufacturer's and distributor's decisions about supply chain modifications, product 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 of wallcovering products and distribution, 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 by product manufacturers interested in understanding the sustainability performance of their products. Distributors also have an opportunity to improve sustainability of products in the marketplace and this standard addresses them as a separate category to support the sustainability direction of the industry.

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 wallcovering manufacturing and distribution processes. The Standard includes relevant criteria across the product life cycle from raw material extraction through manufacturing, distribution, and end-of-life management.