



*NSF International Standard /  
American National Standard*

## NSF/ANSI 49 - 2008

**Biosafety Cabinetry: Design,  
Construction, Performance, and  
Field Certification**



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NSF International Standard/  
American National Standard  
for Biosafety Cabinetry –

**Biosafety Cabinetry: Design,  
Construction, Performance, and  
Field Certification**

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## **Foreword<sup>2</sup>**

The purpose of this Standard is to establish minimum requirements for materials, design, construction, and performance of Biosafety Cabinetry that are designed to protect personnel, product, and the environment. This Standard details requirements for performance testing as well as field certification testing.

This edition of the Standard (NSF/ANSI 49-2008) includes the following revisions:

### **Issue 12**

The revisions from this issue added language in Section 3.13 stating a specification for use in class II biosafety cabinets.

### **Issue 13**

The update from this issue provided a clarification in language in Section 3.4.2.2.

### **Issue 14**

The addition of language in the standard provided for a listing process for the concurrent balance value test. ASHRAE, Standard 111-2008 was updated, and concurrent balance value was defined.

### **Issue 16**

The name of the standard was updated to include all types of cabinets.

### **Issue 17**

These revisions added interlock requirements for both type B cabinets in section F.7.3.2.

### **Issue 18**

This modification provided language to F.1 regarding downflow velocity readings.

Several changes to Annex F were made, they include but are not limited to:

#### **Issue 19**

Clarification of Sound Level Measurement requirements.

#### **Issue 20**

A requirement was added that supply fan interlocks on B2 cabinets be tested at the time of alarm verification.

### **Issue 21**

This revision updated language in various sections regarding the definition of a type A1/A2 biosafety cabinets and language in annex F regarding integrity testing.

### **Issue 22 and 25**

This revision added an informational annex (G).

### **Issue 26**

This revision added language to specify reported values that must be documented for all tests in annex A and annex F.

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**Issue 31**

This issue added the Helium Leak Test and the Sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>) leak test as an informational annex (J). These were removed from the main body via the approval of issue 21.

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

Suggestions for improvement of this Standard are welcome. Comments should be sent to Chair, Joint Committee on Biosafety Cabinetry, c/o NSF International, Standards Department, PO Box 130140, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48113-0140, USA.

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## NSF/ANSI International Standard for Biosafety Cabinetry —

# Biosafety Cabinetry: Design, Construction, Performance, and Field Certification

## 1 General

### 1.1 Scope

This Standard applies to Class II (laminar flow) biosafety cabinetry designed to minimize hazards inherent in work with agents assigned to biosafety levels 1, 2, 3, or 4. It also defines the tests that shall be passed by such cabinetry to meet this Standard. This Standard includes basic requirements for the design, construction, and performance of biosafety cabinets that are intended to provide personnel, product, and environmental protection; reliable operation; durability and structural stability; cleanability; limitations on noise level; illumination; vibration; and motor/blower performance.

### 1.2 Minimum requirements

Cabinets qualifying under this Standard shall have passed all of the designated tests. Units with component parts covered under existing NSF standards or criteria shall conform to those applicable requirements.

### 1.3 Variations in design and construction

Cabinetry varying in design, construction, or installation of accessory equipment may qualify under this Standard, if appropriate tests and investigations indicate that the equipment is durable and reliable, can be cleaned and decontaminated, and performs in conformance to this Standard. Such equipment shall meet the requirements for materials and finishes in this Standard.

Major modifications require appropriate tests for conformance. Major modifications include, but are not limited to, changes in the following: location or capacity or quantity or all three of blower/motor(s); size or design or both of air plenums; position of High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters; position or redesign of work surface; work area intake and exhaust air grilles; window placement or design; access opening size; location and size of exhaust port; and built-in accessory equipment (centrifuges, ultraviolet lighting, supports for intravenous drug container, arm rests, etc.). Relocation of utility service equipment (electrical outlets, petcocks, etc.) is not considered a major modification if other provisions of this Standard are not compromised.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents contain requirements that, by reference in this text, constitute requirements of this Standard. At the time of publication, the indicated editions were valid. All documents are subject to revision, and parties are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the documents indicated below.