NSF International Standard / American National Standard

NSF/ANSI 51 - 2019

Food Equipment Materials
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## Contents

1 General ................................................................................................................................................... 1
   1.1 Purpose ........................................................................................................................................... 1
   1.2 Scope ................................................................................................................................................ 1
   1.3 Measurement .................................................................................................................................... 1

2 Normative references ............................................................................................................................... 1

3 Definitions ............................................................................................................................................... 2

4 Material formulation ................................................................................................................................ 2
   4.1 General requirements ..................................................................................................................... 2
   4.2 Requirements for specific types of materials .................................................................................. 3

5 General materials requirements ................................................................................................................ 5
   5.1 Materials shall be smooth and easily cleanable. .......................................................................... 5
   5.2 Corrosion resistance ....................................................................................................................... 5

6 Coatings .................................................................................................................................................. 6
   6.1 Metallic coatings .............................................................................................................................. 6
   6.2 Organic coatings ............................................................................................................................... 6

7 Corrosion resistance .................................................................................................................................. 8
   7.1 Test method ........................................................................................................................................ 8
   7.2 Acceptance criteria ........................................................................................................................... 9

8 Abrasion resistance .................................................................................................................................. 9
   8.1 Method I (for organic coatings used on food zones direct food contact surfaces) ....................... 9
   8.2 Method II (for organic coatings used on splash zones and food zone nondirect food contact surfaces) ......................................................................................................................... 9
   8.3 Method III (for organic coatings used on serving and display wares) .......................................... 9

9 Impact resistance ..................................................................................................................................... 10
   9.1 Method I (for organic coatings used on food zones direct food contact and nondirect food contact surfaces) .................................................................................................................. 10
   9.2 Method II (for organic coatings used on splash zones, serving and display wares, and specific internal machine surfaces) ...................................................................................................... 10
   9.3 Method III (for specific glass and glass-like coatings used on splash zone surfaces) .......... 10
   9.4 Method IV (for glass and glass-like coatings intended for food zone direct food contact and food zone-serving and display ware) ................................................................. 11

10 Heat resistance ..................................................................................................................................... 11
   10.1 Test method ..................................................................................................................................... 11
   10.2 Acceptance criteria ........................................................................................................................ 11

11 Adhesion ability ..................................................................................................................................... 11
   11.1 Method I (For organic coatings used on food zone – Direct food contact surfaces) .............. 11
   11.2 Method II (for organic coatings used on serving and display wares) ........................................... 12

Informative Annex 1 .................................................................................................................................... 13

Informative Annex 2   Food Equipment Joint Committee roster ................................................................. 15

Interpretation Annex .................................................................................................................................... 17
Foreword

The purpose of this Standard is to establish minimum food protection and sanitation requirements for the materials used in the construction of commercial food equipment.

By way of reference, this Standard will define the basic materials requirements for all equipment covered by NSF/ANSI Food Equipment Standards.

This Standard establishes requirements intended to ensure that a material is not formulated such that it may impart deleterious substances to food in its intended end use application. This Standard does not define specific extraction test methods or acceptance criteria to be used to assess the extent of chemical migration from food contact surfaces to food. Instead, the appropriate United States Federal Regulations have been cited as references upon which conformance with this Standard is based. Other NSF/ANSI Standards may establish extraction tests and acceptance criteria, as needed, for specific types of equipment based on the materials used in their construction and the nature of the food contact (i.e., beverage dispensing equipment, ice making equipment).

This Standard establishes cleanability, corrosion resistance, impact resistance, abrasion resistance, heat resistance, and coating adhesion ability requirements and testing methods for food equipment materials of construction, as applicable.

This edition of the Standard contains the following revisions:

Issue 16

This revision adds language for solid surface materials as Section 4.2.6.

Issue 18

This revision updates the year on the American National Standard for Metric Practice reference for IEEE/ASTM SI 10 from 2010 to 2016.

Issue 19

This revision removes language regarding surface cleanability in Section 5.1 and the entire section regarding surface cleanability (previously Section 7).

This revision also includes an editorial update to the names of the Annexes within. The Annexes are being changed from alpha characters to numeric, preceded by a ‘Normative’ or ‘Informative’. The table below shows the previous name of the Annex with the corresponding new name of the Annex:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annexes</th>
<th>Previously known as:</th>
<th>Now known as:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annex A</td>
<td>Informative Annex 1 (I-1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annex B</td>
<td>Informative Annex 2 (I-2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Interpretations Annex contains responses to interpretation requests. The responses will be published in each version of the Standard until such time that the interpretation response is no longer applicable.

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This Standard was developed by the NSF Joint Committee on Food Equipment 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 Food Equipment at standards@nsf.org, or c/o NSF International, Standards Department, PO Box 130140, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48113-0140, USA.
NSF/ANSI Standard
for Food Equipment –

Food Equipment Materials

1 General

1.1 Purpose

This Standard establishes minimum public health and sanitation requirements for materials used in the
construction of commercial food equipment. The requirements of this Standard are intended to ensure
that the composition and surface finish of food equipment materials are such that a material will not
adulterate food nor render food equipment difficult to clean and sanitize.

1.2 Scope

This Standard is applicable to the materials and finishes used in the manufacture of food equipment
(e.g., broiler, beverage dispenser, cutting board, stock pot). The Standard is also applicable to
components such as tubing, sealants, gaskets, valves, and other items intended for various food
equipment applications.

These components shall meet the relevant design and construction requirements of the NSF Standard
applicable to the type of food equipment on which the component is used.

The requirements of Section 4 of this Standard may also be applied separately to determine whether a
material is suitable for use in a food zone based on its formulation alone. The other relevant requirements
of this Standard, including those for cleanability and corrosion resistance, would apply to the finished
product for which the material is used.

Materials other than those specifically mentioned in this Standard may be used, provided that such
materials meet the minimum requirements described herein.

1.3 Measurement

Decimal and SI conversions provided parenthetically shall be considered equivalent. Metric conversions
and significant figure rounding have been made according to IEEE/ASTM SI 10.

2 Normative references

The following documents contain provisions that, through reference, constitute provisions of this
Standard. At the time of publication, the editions listed below were valid. All Standards are subject to
revision, and parties are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the recent editions of the
documents indicated below. The most recent published edition of the document shall be used for undated
references.

21 CFR Parts 170-199, Food and Drug ³