



*NSF International Standard /  
American National Standard*

## **NSF/ANSI 332 - 2010**

**Sustainability Assessment for  
Resilient Floor Coverings**



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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	5
4	Conformance, evaluation, and assessment criteria	6
4.1	Elements	6
4.2	Prerequisites	6
4.3	Scoring methodology	6
4.4	Procedures for labeling and reporting	7
5	Product(s) design	8
5.1	Purpose	8
5.2	Enlightened design process	8
5.3	Environmentally sustainable material inputs	9
5.4	Human and ecologically friendly inputs	10
5.5	Informed selection of suppliers	11
6	Product(s) manufacturing	12
6.1	Purpose	12
6.2	Environmental policy and management	12
6.3	Conservation of energy resources	13
6.4	Management of water resources	14
6.5	Optimization of material resources	14
6.6	Protection of air resources	15
7	Long-term Value	16
7.1	Purpose	16
7.2	Fitness of purpose	16
7.3	Protection of indoor air quality	16
7.4	Compatibility with green maintenance strategies	17
8	End of Life Management	18
8.1	Reclamation feasibility	18
8.2	Product(s) reclamation and stewardship	18
9	Corporate governance	19
9.1	Purpose	19
9.2	Public commitment to sustainability	19
9.3	Employer responsibility	20
9.4	Community engagement (plant level)	21
9.5	Financial leadership (corporate level)	22
10	Innovation	22
10.1	Scope	22
10.2	Innovation credit	22
Annex A		A1

Annex B .....	B1
B.1 General .....	B1
B.2 Product(s) certification process.....	B1
B.3 Suggested requirements for certifying organizations.....	B1
Annex C .....	C1
Annex D .....	D1
D.1 Guidance .....	D1

## 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.

Comments on this Standard should be sent to NSF International, Standards Department, P.O. Box 130140, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48113-0140, USA or to [standards@nsf.org](mailto:standards@nsf.org).

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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.