



*NSF International Standard /  
American National Standard*

## **NSF/ANSI 342 - 2014**

**Sustainability Assessment for  
Wallcovering Products**



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NSF International Standard/  
American National Standard  
for Sustainability —

# **Sustainability assessment for wallcovering products**

Standard Developer  
NSF International

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## Foreword<sup>2</sup>

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 revisions:

### Issue 4

This revision updated the following sections to support the use of MSDS / SDS information:

- 5.3.1.1 – Inventory of Material Inputs for Manufacturers
- 5.3.1.2 – Inventory of Material Inputs for Distributors
- 5.4.1 – Prerequisite – Identification of use of chemicals of concern
- 5.4.2 – Minimization of known chemicals of concern in product

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<sup>2</sup> The information contained in this Foreword is not part of this American National Standard (ANS) and has not been processed in accordance with ANSI's requirements for an ANS. Therefore, this Foreword may contain material that has not been subjected to public review or a consensus process. In addition, it does not contain requirements necessary for conformance to the Standard.

## **Issue 5**

This revision updated the following sections to clarify when a reduction calculation from 1990 or later is required:

- 6.3.2.1 – Reduction of environmental impact of energy input for Manufacturers
- 6.3.2.2 – Reduction of environmental impact of energy input for Distributors

## **Issue 6**

This revision updated the following sections and incorporated additional clarification regarding the compliance testing in 7.2.2. In addition, 8.2.2.2 was revised to clarify what wallcoverings should be included in the revenue calculation:

- 7.2.2 – Fire resistance & Smoke Density for Manufacturers
- 8.2.2.2 – Corporate investment in reclamation for Distributors

## **Issue 7**

This revision removed 5.3.1 and updated the following sections based on the removal of 5.3.1:

- 5.3.1 – Requirement was removed.

The following sections were revised based on the removal of 5.3.1:

- 5.3.1.1 – Inventory of Material Inputs for Manufacturers
- 5.3.1.2 – Inventory of Material Inputs for Distributors
- 5.4.2 – Minimization of known chemicals of concern in product
- Annex A

## **Issue 8**

This revision added a definition for primary packaging and modified the language for 5.4.1 to include a reference to primary packaging. The following sections were updated:

- Section 3 – Definitions
- 5.4.1 – Prerequisite – Identification of use of chemicals of concern

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 Wallcovering Products, NSF International, National Center for Sustainability Standards at [ncss@nsf.org](mailto:ncss@nsf.org), or 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 credibility 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.

The scope of the standard includes the following **wallcovering manufacturing** processes:

- raw material inputs (fibers, resins, additives, colorants, and process chemicals);
- fabric or sheet formation;
- finishing treatments; and
- attachment systems.

The scope of the standard also includes the following **wallcovering distribution** processes:

- product distribution;
- recycling infrastructure support; and
- indoor air quality (IAQ).

As used in this Standard, “Wallcovering Manufacturing & Distribution” includes, but is not limited to textiles, vinyl, vinyl coated, alternative polymer, alternative polymer coated, textiles, paper and other natural fiber products. The Standard is applicable to products manufactured in one facility or multiple facilities, one country or multiple countries.

### **1.3 Principles**

This standard practice was developed based on the following important principles.

#### **1.3.1 Product Life cycle consideration**

The life cycle of a product ranges from activities associated with the production and delivery of raw materials or generation of natural resources to the distribution, installation, use and ultimately to final disposal. This Standard was developed with consideration of the product life cycle of wallcovering manufacturing and distribution to help identify the appropriate and relevant characteristics and criteria to be used in evaluating a product’s environmental preferability and sustainability.

#### **1.3.2 Relationship with legislation**

A precondition for claiming conformance with this Standard shall be compliance with environmental and other relevant regulations. The entity is in compliance for any outstanding compliance issues with local, state, and federal agencies as long as the entity is making a good faith effort to resolve the issue with the appropriate authorities.

#### **1.3.3 International trade aspects**

The procedures and requirements included within this Standard have not been prepared, adopted, or applied to create unnecessary obstacles to international trade.

#### **1.3.4 Scientific basis**

The criteria contained in this Standard were developed and selected based on sound scientific and engineering principles intended to produce accurate, reproducible results.

#### **1.3.5 Product innovation**

Use of this Standard is intended to support, not inhibit, innovation that maintains or has the potential to improve environmental and social accountability performance.