A request for interpretation of a standard may be submitted at any time. A separate request for interpretation form is required for each interpretation submitted. The Secretariat of the appropriate Joint Committee will respond within 30 days of receipt of the interpretation form advising whether the submitted interpretation reflects the intention of the Joint Committee or not. If dissatisfied with the interpretation, the requester may file an Issue Paper for further consideration of the matter by the full Joint Committee.

NSF Standard(s) Impacted: NSF/ANSI 140
Section of the Standard for Interpretation:
Provide the reference for the specific section(s) of the standard(s) for which interpretation is requested.

I have a clarification/interpretation question for the 10% post consumer prerequisite for platinum in section 8.3 of the standard.

Requestor’s Interpretation of the Section:
Provide the proposed interpretation of the section listed above. You may also want to provide an example of the situation in which you are applying this section of the standard.

Section 8.3 makes reference to Table 8.1 for the weighting factors for various recycled content (PI, PC, PC Carpet) materials in a product, and to Table 8.2 for how points are allocated for the total calculated recycled content in a product. In Table 8.1, post consumer carpet is weighted 1.5.

My question is does the weighting scheme for the two post consumer recycled content types listed in Table 8.1 apply to the calculation of meeting the 10% postconsumer threshold AND to the total recycled content (and hence the points allocated), or ONLY to the calculation of total recycled content? My interpretation is that it was intended to apply to both calculating total recycled content and to meeting the 10% threshold. Thus my interpretation is that it was intended to apply ONLY to calculating total recycled content and NOT to meeting the 10% threshold.

This would mean that a product whose only recycled content was PC carpet would only need 6.67% in the product to achieve the Platinum minimum (6.67 x 1.5 = 10). If this is not how the PC carpet weighting was intended to used in the calculation, it would mean that a product with only PC carpet recycled content would have to have 10% in the product to meet the 10% minimum but would earn points for 15% recycled content (10 x 1.5 = 15).

Is the Interpretation consistent with the intent of the Joint Committee?
(For NSF internal use only)
Yes ☒ No ☐

Explanation of the Interpretation Decision:
Joint Committee Chairs provide an explanation for their decision regarding the Interpretation, which references any specific section(s) of the standard(s) that are related to the issue, as appropriate.

The intent of the standard was that any carpet that is to be certified Platinum must have a minimum of 10% Post-consumer content.

Therefore the weighting scheme for the two post consumer recycled content types listed in Table 8.1 applies ONLY to the calculation of total recycled content. Thus my interpretation is that it was intended to apply ONLY to calculating total recycled content and NOT to meeting the 10% threshold.

I believe that an issue paper should be written to clarify this and would encourage them to do this as soon as possible.

Joint Committee Chair: Matthew Realff Date: February 3 2015