NSF 336 - Sustainability Assessment for Commercial Furnishings Fabrics
13 May 2008, new proposed language

1 General

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this voluntary Standard is to provide a measurable market-based definitions of progressively more sustainable commercial furnishings fabrics for suppliers, manufacturers, purchasers, fabricators, those who set specifications for contracts, specifiers and end users to determine the level of sustainability of commercial furnishings fabrics. This Standard sets levels of performance for commercial furnishings fabrics. It establishes performance criteria that address environmental, economic and social responsibility elements of sustainability. This Standard may be applied throughout select aspects of the commercial furnishings supply chain as the scope of each sustainability category allows aspects throughout the supply chain.

1.2 Scope

This Standard provides pathways toward sustainability by establishing measurable criteria for multiple levels of achievement and/or performance. It allows manufacturers flexibility in methods for compliance and certification.

This Standard assesses product characteristics in the areas of material and component inputs, water and energy use, recycling practices and social accountability.

This Standard is applicable to commercial fabrics commonly used in public occupancy settings, such as office, hospitality, healthcare, and institutional interiors. These include but are not limited to upholstery and vertical (furniture system, wall, drapery, and cubicle), and top of the bed (furniture system, wall, drapery, and cubicle), and top of the bed fabrics commonly used in office, hospitality, healthcare and institutional settings. Fabrics may be formed by combining yarns, fibers, or filaments in a variety of ways including but not limited to woven, non-woven, knitted, bonded, felted, and composite materials. This Standard is applicable to fabrics manufactured in one or multiple facilities, in one or multiple countries.

While this Standard may be useful for applications beyond the commercial furnishings here outlined, the Standard is not intended to address fabrics developed for automotive, apparel, bedding, napery, toweling, military, medical or technical textiles applications.

This Standard may be applied throughout select aspects of the fabric supply chain. Any alterations made after the point of assessment, for example after-market treatments, will nullify the certification unless the fabric in its final form is assessed according to this Standard.

1.5 Certification Conformance

The Sustainability Assessment for Commercial Furnishings Fabrics, as with all ANSI standards, shall neither encourage nor discourage the use of third-party certification for conformity assessment. Organizations that choose to assess their commercial furnishings to this standard may achieve first-party, second party, or third-party verification of conformance. Organizations may show continuous improvement by moving products to higher levels of conformance. The Standard shall accommodate first party (manufacturer), second party (purchaser), and third party (independent of first and second party) claims of conformance. Third party certification shall not be required as the sole means for determining conformance for any prerequisite or optional credit within the Standard.