Purpose
This ballot is to affirm new language in section 4.2 of Standard 51, as well as the supporting definition in Standard 170, regarding the use of solid surface materials.

Background
Issue paper FE-2015-6 highlighted the need for establishing material formulation requirements for solid surface materials in NSF/ANSI 51. During its August 2015 annual meeting, the FEJC reviewed the issue paper and assigned it to the Task Group on Food Equipment Materials (TG) for review, consideration and action.

In the issue paper, the proponent contends that not all manufacturers produce solid surface materials certified for and compliant to food zone applications. As a result, there may be confusion among fabricators that result in a splash zone compliant solid surface material being used in a food zone application.

Over the course of several TG teleconferences, the TG discussed various means of creating language to correct this confusion and ultimately decided that adding new language to section 4, material formulation of Standard 51 was appropriate. In drafting this language, the TG also found it necessary to establish a definition for a solid surface material in Standard 170.

Until this point, the language for each standard has been revised and balloted several times separately from each other, with the most recent version for Standard 51 receiving feedback as far along as the CPHC. Armed with this feedback, the TG met most recently on October 16, 2018, discussed further revisions in great detail, and a small ad-hoc group presented the completed language to the negative commenter who agreed with the latest revisions.

Due to the overlapping nature of this language, the latest revisions for both standards are now combined in this single ballot presented here for consideration.

An affirmative (yes) vote on this straw ballot means you agree with the revised language as submitted.

A negative (no) vote on this straw ballot means you disagree with the revised language as submitted. A negative vote must include an explanation of why you disagree with the revised draft.
4.2.6 Solid Surface Materials

4.2.6.1 Solid surface materials shall meet food zone requirements.

4.2.6.2 Solid surface materials shall be composed of uniform material throughout.

**Rationale:** Food zone requirements are applicable to all solid surface materials to avoid potential misuse in the field. If the material meets food zone requirements it will be suitable for use in all zones without the need to choose the correct product for the given application. A requirement for the material to be uniform throughout eliminates the possibility of multilayered, dissimilar materials that may be more prone to separation and failure.
Glossary of food equipment terminology

3.xxx solid surface material: a solid material with uniform composition throughout used in the manufacture of equipment surfaces.

NOTE - Solid surface materials include polyester, acrylic, engineered stone and quartz/resin based materials

Rationale: this definition is proposed for adding clarity to the newly proposed language for Solid Surface Materials in Standard 51.