NSF Standard(s) Impacted: **Standard 51**

**Background:**
Provide a brief background statement indicating the cause and nature of concern, the impacts identified relevant to public health, public understanding, etc, and any other reason why the issue should be considered by the Committee. Reference as appropriate any specific section(s) of the standard(s) that are related to the issue.

Currently there is a discrepancy between NSF certification and the 2017 FDA Food Code, and products included in the 2017 FDA Code are automatically being turned down for NSF certification with a blanket statement that wood products cannot be NSF certified, specifically utensils such as wood grill grate scrapers e.g. Great Scrape® BBQ Cleaning Tool.

Without clear certifications, commercial kitchens are resorting to using potentially dangerous wire bristle brushes or not using anything to clean the grill grates.
- Multiple government agencies including the CDC have issued warnings about wire bristles being a health risk e.g. ingesting the wire bristles from grill brushes (see Exhibit A)

**Recommendation:**
Clearly state what action is needed: e.g., recommended changes to the standard(s) including the current text of the relevant section(s) indicating deletions by use of strike-out and additions by highlighting or underlining; e.g., reference of the issue to a Task Group for detailed consideration; etc.

The recommendation is to align the NSF standard with the 2017 FDA Food Code.

**Current 2017 FDA Food Code verbiage:**

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4.101.17 Wood, Use Limitation.

(A) Except as specified in (B), (C), and (D) of this section, wood and wood wicker may not be used as a FOOD-CONTACT SURFACE.

(B) Hard maple or an equivalently hard, close-grained wood may be used for:

(1) Cutting boards, cutting blocks; bakers’ tables; and utensils such as rolling pins, doughnut dowels, salad bowls, and chopsticks, and

(2) Wooden paddles used in confectionery operations for pressure scraping kettles when manually preparing confections at a temperature of 110°C (230°F) or above.
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**Current NSF standard with recommended additions underlined & highlighted:**

4.2.5 Wood
4.2.5.1 Wood shall not be used in a food zone, except in wood-top bakers tables, and cutting boards, and utensils such as rolling pins, doughnut dowels, salad bowls, chopsticks & grill grate scrapers conforming to NSF/ANSI 2.
Supplementary Materials (photographs, diagrams, reports, etc.):
If not provided electronically, the submitter will be responsible to have sufficient copies to distribute to committee members.

EXHIBIT A – Current offerings at commercial retail centers for cleaning grill grates, highly wire brush focused:
Continued - Supplementary Materials (photographs, diagrams, reports, etc.):
If not provided electronically, the submitter will be responsible to have sufficient copies to distribute to committee members.

EXHIBIT B – Government warnings & supporting news stories regarding dangers of wire bristles

- CDC – Injuries of Wire Bristles from Grill-Cleaning Brushes
  - https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6126a4.htm

- Consumer reports - Guard against wire grill brush dangers

- Science Daily – Danger of grill brushes identified
  - https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/03/120328142807.htm

- University of Michigan - Doctor finds grill brush bristle lodged in Woman’s throat for months

- WebMD – Summer Danger: BBQ Grill Brush wires causing big health woes

- ABC - Wire barbecue brush bristle injures man’s pancreas; doctors warn people to grill with caution

- Today show - Barbecue danger: Boy swallows wire brush bristle, lands in ER
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*Type written name will suffice as signature