TO: Joint Committee on Drinking Water Treatment Units

FROM: Bob Powitz, Chair of the Joint Committee

DATE: August 3, 2020

SUBJECT: STRAW BALLOT - proposed revisions to NSF/ANSI 42: Drinking Water Treatment Units – Aesthetic Effects (42i107), NSF/ANSI 53: Drinking Water Treatment Units – Health Effects (53i125), NSF/ANSI 244: Drinking Water Treatment Units – Supplemental Microbiological Water Treatment Systems – Filtration (244i11), and NSF/ANSI 401: Drinking Water Treatment Units – Emerging Compounds / Incidental Contaminants (401i19).

A STRAW BALLOT for Revision 1 of NSF/ANSI 42 issue 107, NSF/ANSI 53 issue 125, NSF/ANSI 244 issue 11, and NSF/ANSI 401 issue 19 is being forwarded to the Joint Committee for consideration. Please review the proposal and submit your ballot by August 17, 2020 via the NSF Online Workspace <www.standards.nsf.org>.

Purpose
The proposed revision will provide clarification on how systems shall be tested with and without adsorptive or absorptive media for replacement elements under exposure testing in section 4.2.3.5. This is being submitted as a 14-day straw ballot to finalize the language prior to proceeding with the formal ballot and public comment. Please provide any alternate proposed language in your comments.

Background
At the 2020 DWTU JC meeting, it was reported that Section 4.2.3.5 of NSF/ANSI 42 specifies that water treatment systems shall be tested with and without adsorptive or absorptive media. For the test without media, the adsorptive or absorptive media is removed and any replacement element with adsorptive or absorptive media is removed. There are cartridges in which one cannot remove the media, and in that case the manufacturer would send empty cartridges. It was proposed the addition of some clarifying notes to provide guidance on how these different scenarios should be handled. Upon further discussion, it was suggested that a small group of participants revise the original proposed language and send it out a straw ballot to the JC prior to finalizing and sending out as a formal ballot. Note that this language also applies to NSF/ANSI 53, 244, and 401 and is included in this ballot.

Please refer to the 2020 DWTU JC meeting summary and original issue paper (DWTU-2020-4) under the referenced items for additional background information.

If you have any questions about the technical content of the ballot, you may contact me in care of:

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4 Materials

4.2.3.5 Systems with adsorptive or absorptive media shall be tested with and without the media. Testing without media shall include removal of any granular adsorptive or absorptive media, and removal of any adsorptive or absorptive replacement elements. Systems that contain only encapsulated replacement filter element(s) that are unable to be operated with the replacement element removed, are exempt from without media extraction testing.

4.2.3.6 Systems with only encapsulated elements containing adsorptive or absorptive media that will not provide the consumer with water unless a filter is installed but that provide a dummy filter or bypass plug to allow the consumer to dispense untreated water, extraction without media testing shall be performed on the system in the manner that the system is operated with the bypass plug(s) installed. Additional conditioning instructions should be provided in this case if applicable.

Note – Refrigerators that include water filters often include an option to operate the water system without filtering the water by using a dummy cartridge or bypass plug.

Rationale: Added clarification on how systems shall be tested with and without adsorptive or absorptive media for replacement elements per 2020 DWTU JC meeting discussion (May 13, 2020).