Joint Committee Information Paper

NSF Standard(s) Impacted: NSF/ANSI 49

Subject:

Re-evaluation of Section 6.14 requirement of electrical safety certification for BSC certification.

Background:

In 2010, section 6.14 of NSF/ANSI 49 was revised to be more inclusive of markets outside North America. While the language update moved positively in that direction, the language still limits global manufacturers in certifying their cabinets.

"NSF Standards provide basic criteria to promote sanitation and protection of public health and the environment. Provisions for mechanical and electrical safety have not been included in this Standard because governmental agencies or other national standards-setting organizations provide safety requirements."

Per the above disclaimer in NSF/ANSI 49, the Standard already addresses the manufacturer’s responsibility for obtaining electrical safety certifications. These certifications will vary globally based upon the market in which the cabinets are being sold. Requiring electrical safety certification as written within Section 6 may preclude BSC manufacturers from obtaining certification. The standard was developed primarily with a North American focus, however it is clear that the industry is international in nature. In addition, with recent global events, the necessity and importance of BSCs have been proven clear and the current language in Section 6.14 is still preventative despite the revision ten years ago.

This mindset is demonstrated in other NSF/ANSI standards such as that for water filtration systems. The scope of that standard focuses on material safety, structural integrity of pressure bearing components and the products ability to reduce contaminants from the drinking water. As each country of sale globally has its own electrical requirements, the filtration standard does not mandate any one electrical certification in order to provide certification.

Furthermore, language in Section 6.14 not only requires an electrical certification in order to obtain certification, but also an electrical cert performed by an OSHA Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL). The NRTL program in itself is North American based which may then hinder international electrical testing laboratories, that may be equal to or better than those of NRTL’s program, operating under their own national accreditation standards.

Recommendation:

Ballot the following language for removal from NSF/ANSI 49:

6.14 Electrical safety
The cabinet shall be tested by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) for compliance to the requirements of the current edition of any national standard that is based on IEC 61010-1. Compliance is
demonstrated by NRTL certification, (requires at least annual NRTL audits to maintain cabinet design certification) and cabinet listing, i.e., UL, CSA or IECEE CB Scheme certificate.

Supplementary Materials (photographs, diagrams, reports, etc.):
None.

I hereby grant NSF International the non-exclusive, royalty free rights, including non-exclusive, royalty free rights in copyright; in this item and I understand that I acquire no rights in any publication of NSF International in which this item in this or another similar or analogous form is used.

Name: Stefan Buck
Company: NSF International
Date: September 19, 2020
Telephone Number: 734-769-5231 E-mail: sbuck@nsf.org

Please submit to: Allan Rose, arose@nsf.org