

# NSF/ANSI Standards

## Green Chemistry and Commerce Council Roundtable

Portland, Oregon  
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The NSF logo consists of the letters "NSF" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a solid blue circle. This circle is positioned at the bottom right of a large, thin white arc that curves around the central text of the slide.

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Clif McLellan  
Director of Toxicology Services

# Overview of Presentation

- Introduction to NSF International
- Introduction to American National Standards Institute (ANSI)
- Why an ANSI Standard?
- Challenges of the ANSI Standards Process as it relates to Green Chemistry

# NSF Was Established In 1944 To Develop Standards, And Test And Certify Food Equipment.

- 3 public health experts found the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) in the University of Michigan's School of Public Health 60 years ago.



# **Our Mission Has Always Focused On Protection Of Public Health And Safety.**

NSF International, an independent, not-for-profit non-governmental organization, is dedicated to being the leading global provider of public health and safety-based risk management solutions while serving the interests of all stakeholders.

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# NSF International

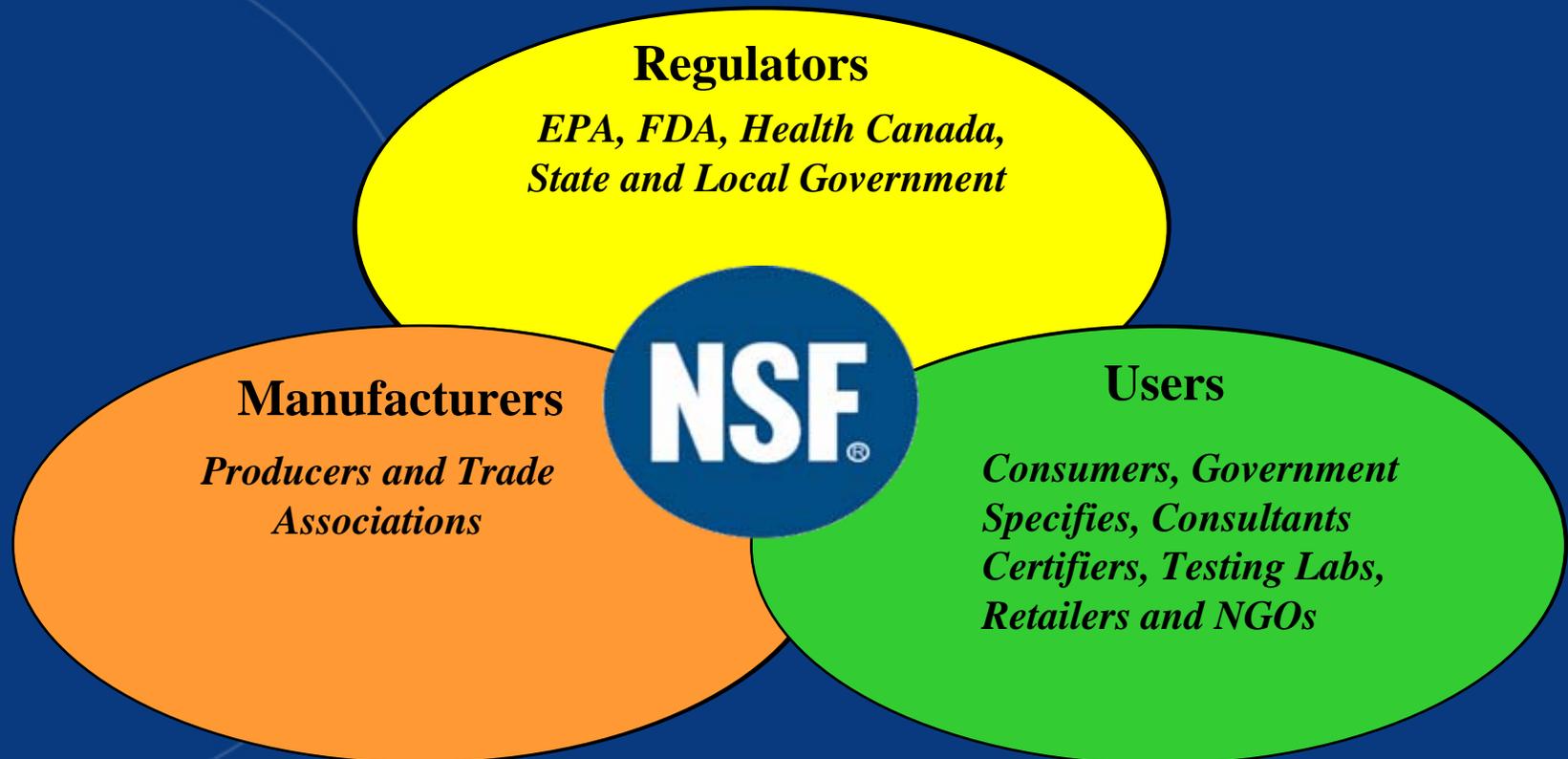
- Recognized world leader in standards development, product testing, certification and risk assessment
- Developed more than 72 national consensus standards
- Service provider to over 12,000 companies in 100 countries
- Certified more than 225,000 products around the globe



# NSF Standards and Programs

- 1944 Food Service Equipment (22)
- 1956 Plastics and Plumbing System Components (3)
- 1960 Pools, Spas, Hot Tub Circulation Systems (1)
- 1965 Wastewater Unit Certification Program (3)
- 1971 Drinking Water Treatment Units (6)
- 1976 Biohazard Cabinetry (1)
- 1984 **Bottled Water (Regulation-USFDA, EC80777)**
- 1984 Drinking Water Laboratory Accreditation
- 1985 Drinking Water Additives
- 1999 **Non-Food Compound Registration**
- 2001 Dietary Supplements
- 2005 **Athletic Banned Substances**
- 2006 **Green Chemistry**
- 2007 ISO 21469 Certification
- 2008 **Toy Safety**

# NSF Joint Committee: Consensus body that oversees a specific standard or set of related standards



# What is a Consensus Standard?

“Consensus” means substantial agreement has been reached by directly and materially affected interest categories. This signifies the concurrence of more than a simple majority, but not necessarily unanimity. Consensus requires that all views and objections be considered, and that an effort be made toward their resolution.

**ANSI Essential Requirements, 2008**

# Evidence of Consensus

- Maintain documentation and reporting of the consensus body vote
- Record and consider all negative votes accompanied by any comments related to the proposal under consideration
- Maintain written records of evidence regarding a change to an original vote

# JC Balloting Requirements

- Affirmative ballot of at least 2/3 of those who voted, excluding abstentions
- Affirmative ballots must represent at least a simple majority of the JC membership (> 50%)
- All negative votes or comments have been considered

# US Standardization System

- American National Standards Institute (ANSI)
  - A private, non-profit organization that administers and coordinates the U.S. voluntary standardization and conformity assessment systems in the private sector
  - Decentralized system
- ANSI roles
  - ISO member body for United States
  - Accreditation of Standard Development Organization including their programs, personnel, and laboratories
  - Process review for voluntary standards development

# Accreditation of Third-Party Certifiers

- Organizational and operational structures
- Certification body personnel qualifications
- Procedures for granting, maintaining, suspending, and withdrawing certification
- Appeals, complaints and disputes
- Surveillance or monitoring requirements
- Use of licenses, certificates, and marks of conformity
- Quality systems – internal audits, document control

# Accreditation of Third-Party Certifiers

- ANSI audits against ISO Guide 65 and certifier's documented procedures and policies

*Accreditation is intended to ensure consistent and reliable operation of certification systems, facilitating their acceptance on a national and international basis, with the intention of furthering international trade*

# Why an ANSI Standard?

- ANSI process helps ensure the development of a single American National Standard that does not overlap or conflict with other American National Standards
- Use of an accredited, audited process enhances credibility of the resulting standard
- ANSI requirements ensure the opportunity for all affected stakeholders to participate in the standards development process
- ANSI standards must be reaffirmed or revised every five years

# Challenges of the ANSI Standards Process as it relates to Green Chemistry

- Establishing a leadership Standard may be difficult.
- Criteria associated with how a mark is used is typically not part of the Standard but is included in the Certification Policies of the Certifier.
- Certification is the decision of the third party certifier and it would be difficult for DfE to maintain oversight of reviewers.
- Equity does not always exist between certifiers. Expertise is not a requirement within an ANSI Standard.

# *QUESTIONS ? ?*