

NSF Certified Components for Water System Manufacturers + New Acceptance of NSF/ANSI 61 in Canada Means a New Name for the Standard: NSF/ANSI/CAN 61

by Tracey Lancaster, American Bilrite

What is the NEW Standard NSF/ANSI/CAN 61?

NSF/ANSI 61 certification covers materials and products that come in contact with drinking water or drinking water treatment chemicals, from source to tap. Certification to this standard ensures that the material or product does not impart contaminants above acceptable limits into potable water. Systems and components certified by NSF meet the requirements set by state and provincial drinking water regulatory agencies in 49 U.S. states and 11 Canadian provinces/territories with requirements for NSF/ANSI/CAN 61 for municipal drinking water applications.

NSF/ANSI 61 has been recognized in Canada for several years. Now the standard's name will be updated to reflect Canada's acceptance: NSF/ANSI/CAN 61. The NSF certification mark will be updated with implementation of the new blue mark taking place over a period of five years.

Why choose NSF/ANSI/CAN 61 Certified Components for your potable water system?

NSF International testing of a system like a pump or water meter is designed to capture contaminants from all components within the system. If a manufacturer deems it appropriate to use non-certified materials, NSF may require details of the composition of the materials, and may test each non-certified component. If the manufacturer procures the component from three different sources, every source could require testing for use in the NSF certified system. If a component fails, the entire system fails. Adjustments would need to be made in a prescribed timeframe prior to the subsequent testing, and additional testing usually incurs additional costs. Any part of a system may be audited for safety at any point. Using a certified component (gaskets, seals, fittings, for example) may reduce the number of tests for certification (cost) and decrease the risk of a failure because the material is already designated safe for the application.

Why have your potable water system component certified by NSF International?

Options like "tested to NSF Standards by another agency", or "NSF Compliant" are not the same as Certified by NSF International. A compliant material may never be tested or tested as little as once to the criteria for NSF/ANSI/CAN 61. When a company makes the claim that it is compliant with an NSF standard, it is stating that

the product adheres to the requirements of the standard. It does not communicate how or by whom compliance was determined. If there are no processes for annual testing, site visits, surveillance, or audits, compliance is more than likely a self-claim. It may or may not be valid, and there is no way to know for sure what the process included. Will the next lot pass? With no clear process to follow to ensure continued safety, who wants to take the risk? NSF Certification means that at any time, NSF can and will audit your facility and processes. You cannot go rogue with the composition of your component, and you cannot make changes without a full-scale recertification.

According to Theresa Bellish, General Manager of Municipal and Recreational Water Product & Chemical for NSF International, "The use of components certified to NSF 61 by NSF International in systems pursuing NSF Certification under NSF 61 helps reduce the time and potential testing requirements for a fully certified system."

According to Marketing Manager Tracey Lancaster at American Bilrite, "American Bilrite's decision to have their AB-576 EPDM used for gaskets and sealing in potable water applications certified by NSF International was triggered by their customers' popular demand for accreditation by one of the most reputable testing and certification organizations. AB-576 also meets American Water Works Association (AWWA) standard C111/A21.11. This standard covers rubber gasket joints for ductile iron pressure pipe, ductile iron and gray iron fittings, for valves, hydrants, and other appurtenances for the water supply service."

For easy verification, all NSF Certified products can easily be found on their website in their approved product listings. Please visit www.nsf.org for validation of joining and sealing materials. Gaining product acceptance is simplified when a product bears the familiar NSF seal. The NSF logo is the most widely recognized and respected mark in the drinking water industry.