



January 24, 2011

RE: Health Effects Monitoring of PVC Pipe and Fittings

To whom it may concern:

NSF/ANSI Standard 61 “Drinking Water System Components – Health Effects” was developed in 1987 at the request of the U.S. EPA. The purpose was to establish health-based maximum contaminant limits for chemicals migrating from products that contact public water supplies. The standard covers all types of materials used in drinking water systems (including PVC). Most state plumbing codes and waterworks regulations require drinking water system components to be certified by an ANSI-accredited third party to NSF/ANSI Standard 61.

NSF International conducts a certification program to Standard 61 for drinking water system components which includes:

- Analysis of pipe materials: Review of any material in contact with drinking water to determine:
 - what possible contaminants could leach into drinking water
 - what type of chemical extraction testing is necessary
- Testing of pipe products: Chemical-extraction testing where the products are exposed to various formulated waters designed to extract specific types of contaminants. PVC products are tested for:
 - Volatile organic compounds (VOC’s)
 - Phenolics
 - Residual vinyl chloride monomer (RVCM)
 - Regulated metals
 - Any other potential contaminant identified during the formulation review.

Products are tested initially, prior to any major formulation changes, and at least once annually from each production facility.

- Toxicology evaluation: Any regulated contaminants found must be below EPA and Health Canada levels for regulated contaminants. For non-regulated contaminants found, NSF/ANSI Standard 61 sets health-based pass/fail levels.
- Audits: NSF performs at least two unannounced audits of each production facility annually. During the audit, NSF
 - Verifies there are no modifications to the product formulation, suppliers and processing
 - Collects samples for laboratory retesting of each product family on an annual basis

NSF frequently is asked questions about the following:

- Lead: PVC pipe and fittings certified by NSF do not contain lead.
- Vinyl Chloride Monomer: All PVC pipe, fittings and materials are tested at least twice per year for residual vinyl chloride. Samples are selected randomly by NSF auditors during unannounced inspections of each production facility. Levels of RVCM must pass the toxicology evaluation.
- Phthalates: Rigid PVC pipe and fittings certified by NSF do not contain phthalates or phthalate plasticizers.

To verify products that have been tested and listed by NSF, products will bear the NSF-61 or NSF-pw (potable water) marks. Product Listings can be verified on NSF’s website http://www.nsf.org/business/search_listings/.

Regards,

Jeremy Brown

Jeremy Brown
Codes & Regulatory Manager
phone 1-734-769-5196
brown@nsf.org