



# Questions and Answers About **Green Squared**<sup>SM</sup>

*presented by NSF Sustainability*

**Green Squared** is a new product certification program based on Standard A138.1 Specifications for Sustainable Ceramic Tiles, Glass Tiles and Tile Installation. Standard A138.1 is the first consensus-based sustainability standard for tile and installation materials. It is also the first sustainable building material standard to encompass a full range of products within an industry. The consensus body is also working to finalize A138.1 as an American National Standard (ANSI).

The **Green Squared** certification process includes a comprehensive and independent assessment of environmental and social impacts of tile products and materials. Criteria included in the assessment were written in accordance with the North American green building industry's practices, expectations and leading initiatives. Additionally the criteria standardize sustainability concepts unique and important to the tile industry.

## **Who developed the A138.1 standard and the Green Squared certification program?**

The Tile Council of North America developed the standard through a consensus body utilizing the ANSI process. TCNA also developed and will oversee the **Green Squared** certification program, in which a "**Green Squared Certified**" mark will be awarded to products which have been verified by an authorized 3rd party certifier to be in conformance with A138.1.

## **What is the purpose of Green Squared?**

**Green Squared**, as the certification program for Standard A138.1, provides a unique brand identity for the standard within the green building products marketplace. **Green Squared** certification was created to enhance credibility and provide brand distinction for your products in a marketplace wary of green product claims.

## **What products may receive Green Squared Certification?**

Ceramic tiles, glass tiles and tile installation materials are all covered under the scope of this Standard. Users may include producers of the tiles and installation materials as well as suppliers of their materials. Tiles may include mosaic, quarry, pressed floor, glazed wall, porcelain, specialty, cast glass, fused glass and low-temperature coated glass tiles. Installation materials may include mortar adhesives, mastic adhesives, reactive resin adhesives, grouts, tile backer units, crack isolation membranes, waterproofing membranes, water containment membranes and sound reduction membranes.

## **Will NSF offer certification to this Standard and when will this service be available?**

NSF provides certification for more than 350,000 products in the area of food and water safety, health sciences, environment and sustainability. Utilizing these extensive operations, resources, and accreditations, NSF will offer third party certification to **Green Squared**. Certification involves NSF verifying that all mandatory requirements and necessary elective credits are met through the certification process.

Certification includes two steps: a documentation review and an onsite facility audit. The certification is valid for three years with abbreviated monitoring annually. A single point of contact will be provided by NSF to fully manage your certification. This NSF contact is knowledgeable of the process, standard and requirements and can help ease your certification process.

Evaluations in accordance with A138.1 are available now. Certification to **Green Squared** will be available once the Standard has completed the ANSI process.



## What are the benefits of independent third party certification through NSF Sustainability?

Certification to **Green Squared** allows tile and installation material manufacturers to:

- Distinguish “green” products from competitors and enhance their brand
- Obtain preferred vendor status for those seeking sustainable solutions
- Meet state and federal procurement guidelines
- Achieve the most credible type of certification available in the marketplace
- Cost savings through adoption of more sustainable practices and business approaches

## What are the requirements for certification to Green Squared?

**Green Squared** is divided into five sections that include mandatory requirements and elective options. Conformance to **Green Squared** is met through achieving the mandatory requirements and a specified number of elective credit units. These elective requirements are specified by product type (e.g., ceramic tile, glass tile, dry powder installation goods, liquid/paste installation goods, panel installation goods, sheet installation goods).

The Standard covers these categories:

- Environmental Product Characteristics
- Environmental Product Manufacturing and Raw Material Extraction
- End of Product Life Management
- Progressive Corporate Governance
- Innovation

## What are American National Standards?

American National Standards are developed using a consensus based process to promote openness and due process allowing for equity and fair play. This ensures the creation of a robust set of criteria for a specific product type. Standards are developed through involvement of stakeholders directly affected by the scope of the document. The process ensures balanced input from industry representatives, public health/regulatory officials, user/consumers representatives, and other relevant interest groups.

## Who can I contact for additional information?

For more information about certification to **Green Squared**, please contact +1 (734) 476-2543, internationally at 00 +1 (734) 476-2543 or via email at [sustainability@nsf.org](mailto:sustainability@nsf.org).

## Sustainability Assured



NSF International has been testing and certifying products for safety, health and the environment for more than 65 years ([www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org)). As an independent, not-for-profit organization, NSF's mission is to protect public health and the environment through standards development, inspection, testing and certification for the food, water, building materials, retail, chemical and health science industries. Operating in more than 120 countries, NSF is committed to protecting public health worldwide.

NSF Sustainability draws upon this expertise in standards development, product assurance and certification, advisory services and quality systems management to help companies green their products, operations, systems and supply chains.

Through its National Center for Sustainability Standards, NSF has developed sustainability standards for: chemicals, building products and materials and water quality. NSF works with leading regulators, scientists, engineers, public health and environmental health professionals, and industry representatives to develop these transparent, consensus-based standards.

**The Tile Council of North America (TCNA)** is a trade association representing North American manufacturers of ceramic tile, tile installation materials, tile equipment, raw materials, and other tile-related products. Established in 1945 as the Tile Council of America (TCA), the Tile Council has a leadership role in promoting the use of ceramic tile and in developing North American and international industry standards. Additionally, towards the goal of

expanding the ceramic tile market in North America, the Tile Council regularly conducts independent research and product testing, works with regulatory, trade, and other governmental agencies, offers professional training, and publishes installation guidelines, tile standards, economic reports, and promotional literature. For more information regarding the Tile Council of North America, please visit [www.tileusa.com](http://www.tileusa.com).

## Contact Us

For more information about developing the **Green Squared** certification program, please contact NSF at +1 (734) 476-2543, internationally at 00 +1 (734) 476-2543 or by e-mail at [sustainability@nsf.org](mailto:sustainability@nsf.org).

