



REPAIRED OR MODIFIED: IS IT STILL CERTIFIED?

According to a survey of state drinking water administrators, forty-nine states require certification or compliance to NSF/ANSI 61: *Drinking Water System Components - Health Effects* for materials, components and products used in drinking water treatment and distribution.

North American states, provinces and territories wrote this requirement into legislation, regulation or policy to ensure products are safe for drinking water use. When installing new equipment, North American inspectors are looking for the NSF/ANSI 61 certification mark to ensure products comply with the regulation. With new installations or complete product replacements, it is a relatively straightforward exercise to verify equipment is certified to NSF/ANSI 61 by reviewing the certification mark on the product or reviewing the product listings on the certifier's website.



Thirty years after the original publication of NSF/ANSI 61, odds are that some of those first certified products have needed to be repaired or replaced since they were installed. Nothing lasts forever, not even the best designed product, so eventually normal wear and tear

or unforeseen issues will require parts or components to be replaced. NSF utilizes NSF/ANSI 61 to certify compliance of products produced under the controlled manufacturing practices and authorized materials at the original manufacturer's production locations. Repairs and maintenance of those products can modify the wetted surfaces or introduce new materials beyond those evaluated during initial certification. These activities are outside the scope of the certification as they do not have the same review, testing and auditing oversight as the original equipment and product manufacture.

VERIFYING A PRODUCT IS CERTIFIED TO NSF/ANSI 61

1. Look for the certification mark on the product.

A product that is certified to NSF/ANSI 61 by NSF International will display one of these certification marks (all colors have equal meaning).



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2. Double check the product certification listings.

For products certified by NSF International, search our database at [nsf.org/certified-products-systems](https://www.nsf.org/certified-products-systems) and select "Drinking Water System Components."



As the repairs or modifications are beyond the scope of initial certification, there are several ways utilities can keep their equipment in good standing by using the same materials as in the certified product:

- > **Use OEM replacement components** so you get the exact part and material from the manufacturer. The manufacturer can attest that these are the same components used in the originally certified product. With certification by NSF, the manufacturer undergoes annual audits and testing to verify products maintain compliance with NSF/ANSI 61.
- > **Use NSF/ANSI 61 certified components** since a certified component, such as an o-ring or gasket, is intended to be used with another product. These components undergo the same rigorous review, testing and auditing evaluations to NSF/ANSI 61 as products. The component's certification should be compared to the application and end use required to ensure they are in alignment.
- > **Perform risk and safety assessments** if OEM or certified components are not available. This should always be done prior to considering a component for use.



Of course other methods and criteria could come into play for specific situations and examples. For any modifications, utilities should review their specific requirements and changes with the appropriate authority having jurisdiction.

Water utilities are welcome to contact NSF International's Consumer and Regulatory Hotline for questions about products certified by NSF. Contact **+1.800.673.8010** or email **info@nsf.org**.