NSF/ANSI/CAN 61

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q What is NSF/ANSI/CAN 61?

A NSF/ANSI/CAN 61 Drinking Water System Components – Health Effects is an American National Standard for municipal water treatment systems and products. The standard sets health effects criteria for chemical contaminants from materials, components and devices that may leach into drinking water.

Q What is the purpose of the NSF/ANSI/CAN 61 standard??

A Chemical contamination of drinking water can result in a significant risk to public health. NSF/ANSI/CAN 61 was developed to protect public health by establishing minimum requirements for the control of potential adverse human health effects from products that contact drinking water.

Q Who subscribes to NSF/ANSI/CAN 61?

A As of February 2022, the standard has been adopted within North America.

Within the United States, 49 state drinking water agencies have requirements for centralized water treatment plants and distribution system components to comply with NSF/ANSI/CAN 61. Water distribution systems downstream of the water meeting or inside a building are typically outside of the scope of state drinking water agencies and are regulated by local plumbing codes. While all major plumbing codes require the use of NSF/ANSI/CAN 61 certified products, the specific requirements for those product types can be found in state or local plumbing codes.

Within Canada, 11 provinces/territories require drinking water system components to comply with the requirements of NSF/ANSI/CAN 61. Plumbing products in buildings are regulated through the appropriate plumbing code in Canada. Most products are required to comply with NSF/ANSI/CAN 61 via Canadian Standards Association Group that are referenced in the plumbing codes.

Q Why use NSF/ANSI/CAN 61-approved products?

A NSF/ANSI/CAN 61-approved products are evaluated through a technical review and test program to ensure they are compliant with the specification. Supplier audits are also carried out by the approval body to ensure correct processes and quality management are in place. This ensures the product meets the required standard and limits chemical contaminants.

Q How does NSF/ANSI/CAN 61 impact mechanical seals?

A Previously, it was common for mechanical seals to be approved as a component within a larger assembly, such as a pump. This put the burden of approval on our customers and limited the seals' use to the approved assembly.

John Crane worked with NSF International to ensure our seals are NSF/ANSI/CAN 61-approved and can be used in new applications or easily applied to existing NSF-approved customer assemblies.

Our NSF/ANSI/CAN 61-approved mechanical seals assemblies use carefully selected materials and lubricants to minimize chemical contaminant leaching.

Q Which seals are NSF/ANSI/CAN 61-approved?

A John Crane offers a comprehensive range of approved seals including O-ring pusher seals, standard cartridge seals and split seals.

For more information, please contact:
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References:
Survey of ASDWA Members on the Use of NSF/ANSI Standards
Municipal Water Treatment Systems and Products