PROPOSED REVISION OF GS-42, 2015
PROPOSED REVISION:
GREEN SEAL STANDARD FOR COMMERCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CLEANING SERVICES, GS-42

OVERVIEW

Green Seal’s mission is to advance a green economy by recognizing products and services that demonstrate sustainability leadership in their industry. Our goal is to develop science-based standards that are applicable and appropriate for the relevant industry. These criteria and the specific requirements for conformance should be clear in advance to all applicants for certification, without the need for interpretation.

After reviewing the state of the commercial and institutional cleaning industry and information gathered during certification reviews, Green Seal is proposing revisions to GS-42 in order to ensure that the requirements for certification are clear and appropriate. This proposed version maintains the same level of leadership and protection, without making major changes or increasing the stringency of the criteria. Currently-certified cleaning services will, therefore, continue to meet all of the requirements in the new edition of GS-42. Comprehensive revisions of GS-42 affecting the stringency of criteria may be proposed in the future as warranted.

This document compares the current Edition 2.1 of GS-42 with the proposed revision (Edition 2.2), and follows the order of the new sections. Each proposed section is labeled PROPOSED CRITERION, and presented after the current version (in green text labeled CURRENT CRITERION) so that they can be compared. A brief rationale for the changes is provided. The current sections retain their numbering from Edition 2.1 for those who wish to track the requirements in the current edition.

The full version of the proposed Edition 2.2 is also available for review. This version shows what the standard would look like if all proposed revisions were accepted.

GOALS

The goals of this revision are to:

- Ensure that the requirements are clear and consistent for all applicants, while upholding leadership and protection levels
- Ensure that the criteria are clearly defined to reduce the need for interpretation
- Modify requirements where necessary, so that they are practical to review and enforce
- Maintain the current level of leadership that the standard represents in the industry
- Streamline the certification review process, where possible

PROPOSED REVISIONS

The proposed revisions to GS-42 include the following changes:

- The requirements for the Building Specific Cleaning Plan are summarized in one section (2.1), with the intent to clarify that multiple copies of the Plan are not required.
• The Cleaning Plan is required to describe activities that are addressed in other sections (e.g., cleaning procedures, purchasing, or training). Those sections are referenced in Section 2.1.
• The requirements in the standard are reorganized according to a process approach, with separate sections for routine cleaning procedures, maintenance and storage, communications, purchasing, and training.
• All requirements for communication with the building management and occupants are summarized in a separate section (3.2).
• All of the purchasing requirements for cleaning products and powered cleaning equipment are consolidated into a separate section (4.0).
• Informational material that is not normative, such as suggestions, explanations, and examples, were moved to footnotes.
• Criteria that require interpretation or are impractical to certify were edited for clarity.

RATIONALE
The proposed changes to GS-42 are made for three major reasons:

Reorganization: The standard is reorganized to clarify the requirements for the Building Specific Cleaning Plan, specifically that one copy of documents is sufficient, and to consolidate the requirements according to process. Purchasing requirements are consolidated into a separate section.

Clarification of Requirements: Some criteria and definitions are revised in order to limit the need for interpretation, by clarifying the requirements for conformance. Specific details of requirements are added or removed where necessary, and possible exemptions to requirements are listed explicitly and separately from the requirements themselves.

Editorial Changes: Some criteria were edited for clarity and others are rephrased and reformatted into bullet-point lists. Some of the original criteria contain suggestions, examples, or explanations for various requirements; they were revised in order to be more practical, direct, and clear. The proposed revision explicitly separates the normative requirements from the informational material, which has been moved to footnotes.
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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

dBA. Decibels
EPA. Environmental Protection Agency
SDS. Safety Data Sheet
SOP. Standard Operating Procedure
1.0 SCOPE

This Standard establishes requirements for cleaning services to create a cleaning program that protects human health and the environment.

The scope of this standard covers both in-house and external cleaning services and includes all activities typically required to clean indoor areas of commercial, public, and industrial buildings, and areas directly outside building entryways. This Standard does not cover residential buildings, or the maintenance of any exterior areas such as parking lots, grounds, or picnic areas. See Appendix 1 for an example of services included in this standard.

The requirements specified in this standard are mandatory for all cleaning services, unless specifically noted or shown to be not applicable or not available. Where criteria conflict with local code or regulations, the latter shall be followed.

Words and phrases described in the standard that appear in italics have a corresponding definition located in the definition section of the standard, Annex A.

2.0 OPERATIONS

2.1 Building-Specific Cleaning Plans. The cleaning service shall have a written cleaning plan for each building.1

2.1.1 The plan shall describe how the cleaning service will address the following issues:

- Standard Operating Procedures that address:
  - cleaning and waste collection (Sections 2.2, 2.3, 2.4)
  - handling, tracking, and storage of cleaning products (Sections 2.6.1, 4.4)
  - equipment operation procedures and maintenance (Sections 2.3.3, 2.6.2)
  - waste disposal (Sections 2.4, 2.6.3)
  - communications with management and occupants of the building (Section 3.2)

- Schedules for:
  - routine cleaning operations, detailing the minimum frequency required for each (Section 2.2 and all other areas to be cleaned)
  - activities performed periodically (Section 2.2)
  - equipment maintenance (Section 2.6.2)

- Details that are specific to each building including:

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1 This written plan is intended to describe how the general procedures are to be implemented at each site. General procedures and site-specific information may be included directly or by reference, and may be combined as best fits the needs of the cleaning service.

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2.1.2 Cleaning plans shall be reviewed for possible revisions at least once a year.

2.1.3 Schedules of cleaning operations shall be reviewed at least twice a year and adjusted as needed in response to the changing needs of the building and its occupants.

2.1.4 The cleaning plan shall be made available to all cleaning personnel and clients.

2.2 Cleaning Operations. Schedules and procedures shall be established and implemented for routine, periodic, and restorative cleaning operations for floors and carpets.

2.2.1 Floor Maintenance.

2.2.1.1 For routine floor maintenance, the cleaning service shall vacuum floors or use mops equipped with reusable heads or equivalent.

Floors shall be cleaned on a predetermined schedule and as needed\(^5\) to keep them clean.

- **Daily:** heavy traffic areas, including entrances, corridors, break areas, congested areas, main passageways, and primary work or office areas.
- **Vacuum or mop as necessary to keep clean:** light traffic areas including conference rooms, administrative offices, auditoriums, media centers, limited access areas, and other areas or spaces with limited or periodic use.

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\(^2\) Both temporary and permanent sources, e.g., building renovations, indoor plants, and new carpet installations.

\(^3\) e.g., floors containing asbestos, paint containing lead, or other hazards identified by OSHA.

\(^4\) e.g., high traffic areas, laboratories, and those with inadequate ventilation, poor lighting, restricted access, or historical structures requiring special accommodations

\(^5\) e.g., in the event of spills or heavy use.
2.2.1.2 For periodic and restorative maintenance of floors, the *cleaning service* shall:

- Schedule floor stripping and refinishing during periods of minimum occupancy.
- Provide reasonable notice to the *client* before non-routine floor maintenance operations. The timing and method of the notice shall be established in consultation with building management.
- Ensure that sufficient floor finish exists on the floor surface before performing periodic maintenance, in order to avoid damage to the flooring.
- Floor restoration chemicals shall not be applied by spraying\(^6\)
- Perform restoration\(^7\) only when needed, rather than on a predetermined schedule.
- Use burnishing or buffing equipment capable of capturing the dust generated by the equipment.
- Ventilate the area to the outside if possible, both during and after floor stripping, floor scrubbing, or recoating.

2.2.2 Carpet Cleaning and Maintenance.

2.2.2.1 For routine carpet maintenance, the *cleaning service* shall vacuum carpets on a predetermined schedule, and as needed to keep them clean.

- **Vacuum daily:** heavy traffic areas, including entrances, corridors, break areas, congested areas, main passageways, and primary work or office areas.
- **Vacuum to keep clean:** light traffic areas including conference rooms, administrative offices, auditoriums, media centers, limited access areas, and other areas or spaces with limited or periodic use.

2.2.2.2 For periodic and restorative cleaning,\(^8\) the *cleaning service* shall:

- Provide reasonable notice to the *client* before non-routine floor cleaning operations. The timing and method of the notice shall be established in consultation with building management.
- Perform carpet extraction only as needed rather than on a regular schedule.
- Clean carpets so that they will dry in less than 12 hours.
- Schedule carpet extraction during periods of minimum occupancy.

2.2.3 Restrooms.

2.2.3.1 Restroom cleaning shall be conducted from high to low, toward the doorway, with dry cleaning tasks performed before wet cleaning operations.

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\(^6\) Mop-on or autoscrubber methods may be used.

\(^7\) Intended to maintain the appearance and integrity of the floor finish.

\(^8\) when normal cleaning is not sufficient to clean carpets in heavy use areas.
2.2.3.2 Areas where pathogens can collect and surfaces touched by hands\(^9\) shall be cleaned and *disinfected* daily, and more frequently in the event of high traffic volume or high occupancy levels.

2.2.3.3 Standing moisture shall be removed from floors and bathroom surfaces.

2.2.3.4 Equipment that has been used to clean restrooms,\(^10\) except for powered devices, shall not be used to clean any other areas of the building.

2.2.3.5 At least once a day, bathroom trash liners shall be pulled and trash receptacles *disinfected*.

2.2.3.6 Drain traps shall be filled on a predetermined schedule.

2.2.4 Dining Areas and Break Rooms

2.2.4.1 Surfaces in food preparation and consumption areas shall be cleaned and *sanitized* at least daily, and more frequently as needed.\(^11\)

2.2.4.2 Surfaces touched by hands\(^12\) shall be cleaned and *sanitized* daily.

2.2.4.3 Containers used for food waste shall be cleaned and *sanitized* daily. They shall be emptied once per day and when full.

2.2.5 Entryways.

2.2.5.1 Outside entryways shall be cleaned daily.

2.2.5.2 Walk-off matting shall be placed at all building entryways: 6-10 feet of scraper/wiper matting, followed by 6-10 feet of wiper matting.

**Exceptions:**

Smaller mat sizes may be accepted if the entry space is too small for the required sizes.

If a facility owner/operator does not allow the use of the required matting, the *cleaning service* shall document that they have notified the *client* of the reasons for using matting and how to obtain appropriate matting.

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\(^9\) (e.g., toilet bowls, urinals, sinks, door knobs, light switches, handles, etc.)

\(^10\) or equipment that is designated only for cleaning restrooms.

\(^11\) e.g., after spills or if dirty.

\(^12\) e.g., faucet handles, drinking fountains, cafeteria serving lines.
2.2.5.3 Matting shall be vacuumed daily, and as needed to prevent tracking of contaminants into the building.

2.3 Cleaning Techniques.

2.3.1 Disinfection. The cleaning service shall:

2.3.1.1 Disinfect areas or surfaces where pathogens can collect. Use disinfectants only where required as described in Sections 4.7 and 4.8.

2.3.1.2 Disinfect using only disinfectants or devices registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

2.3.1.3 Follow product label directions for preparing disinfection solutions (e.g., dilution rate), and for the appropriate method for disinfecting and cleaning the area.

2.3.2 Cleaning Cloths.

2.3.2.1 Whenever appropriate, reusable cleaning cloths or microfiber technology shall be used instead of paper products.

2.3.2.2 Within 2 hours of use, all cleaning towels, cloths, and materials shall be disposed of, rinsed, or placed in a sealed container.

2.3.2.3 Reusable cleaning cloths or microfiber must be cleaned or laundered prior to reuse.

2.3.3 Powered Equipment: Operations.

2.3.3.1 The cleaning service shall establish procedures for the use of powered equipment in order to clean effectively with minimum environmental impact.

2.3.3.2 Vacuum bags or canisters shall be:
   - inspected at least every 2 hours
   - changed or replaced when half full or when indicated by a bag sensor

2.3.3.3 Precautions shall be taken to limit worker exposure to dust and particulate matter from vacuum cleaners when cleaning and replacing bags and filters.

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13 e.g. in restrooms or on door handles, or bathroom faucets.
14 e.g., dwell time and whether pre-cleaning is required.
15 e.g., not when dealing with bodily fluids
16 Section 2.7.2 describes requirements for maintenance of powered equipment.

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2.3.3.4 Propane-powered equipment may be used indoors only when the building is unoccupied.\textsuperscript{17} The maximum air circulation and exchange shall be provided.

2.4 Collection of Waste and Recyclable Items

2.4.1 Waste/Trash Collection.\textsuperscript{18} For waste containers not addressed elsewhere in the standard, the \textit{cleaning service} shall:

\begin{itemize}
\item 2.4.1.1 Remove trash and replace liners only when they are soiled from wet trash or food, become broken, or as required by the \textit{client}.
\item 2.4.1.2 Dispose of all trash before weekends and holidays.
\end{itemize}

2.4.2 Recycling. Where a recycling program exists, \textit{cleaning services} shall:

\begin{itemize}
\item 2.4.2.1 Inspect recycling areas daily, including collection bins, and clean them if they are dirty.
\item 2.4.2.2 Collect soda and other beverage containers weekly or more frequently as required.
\item 2.4.2.3 Ensure that the recycling stations are marked clearly.
\item 2.4.2.4 Collect recyclable materials that have come in contact with food\textsuperscript{19} and remove from the building before weekends and holidays.
\item 2.4.2.5 Determine, together with the \textit{client}:
\begin{itemize}
\item Procedures for rinsing and separation of recyclables
\item Locations and procedures for collecting recyclables
\item How to ensure that recycling stations are accessible
\end{itemize}
\item 2.4.2.6 Periodically review with the \textit{client} the status of the recycling program, including effectiveness and any problems regarding separation or collection of recyclable materials.
\end{itemize}

2.5 Vulnerable Populations. The \textit{cleaning service} shall obtain from the building management a list of areas with \textit{vulnerable populations}.

\begin{itemize}
\item 2.4.1.1 Remove trash and replace liners only when they are soiled from wet trash or food, become broken, or as required by the \textit{client}.
\item 2.4.1.2 Dispose of all trash before weekends and holidays.
\item 2.4.2.4 Collect recyclable materials that have come in contact with food\textsuperscript{19} and remove from the building before weekends and holidays.
\item 2.4.2.5 Determine, together with the \textit{client}:
\begin{itemize}
\item Procedures for rinsing and separation of recyclables
\item Locations and procedures for collecting recyclables
\item How to ensure that recycling stations are accessible
\end{itemize}
\item 2.4.2.6 Periodically review with the \textit{client} the status of the recycling program, including effectiveness and any problems regarding separation or collection of recyclable materials.

\textsuperscript{17} Local and state ordinances may restrict the use of propane-powered equipment indoors.
\textsuperscript{18} Waste containers in restrooms are addressed in Section 2.2.3 and those in food areas are addressed in Section 2.2.4.
\textsuperscript{19} e.g. soda cans

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In situations where cleaning operations have the potential to adversely affect any identified members of a **vulnerable population**, the **cleaning service** shall document their presence at each building and:

2.5.1 Schedule daily cleaning activities to prevent exposure of **vulnerable populations** to the cleaning process.

2.5.2 Adopt alternative cleaning practices that minimize or eliminate use of products listed in Section 4.1.

2.5.3 Cleaning products (Section 4.1) shall be used only in areas where the ventilation will dissipate them before the area becomes repopulated.\(^{20}\)

2.5.4 Prevent the transfer of cleaning products and other impacts to areas of the building where **vulnerable populations** may be present.

### 2.6 Indoor Plants

**Cleaning services** that are responsible for maintenance of indoor plants shall:

- Ensure that plants are not in direct contact with carpet.
- Move plants away from heating, ventilating, and air conditioning vents.

**Cleaning services** that are not responsible for plant care shall inform the **client** if these requirements are not met or if plants interfere with cleaning (Section 3.2).

### 2.7 Back-of-House Procedures

#### 2.7.1 Handling and Storage of Cleaning Products

2.7.1.1 Concentrated cleaning products shall be diluted using **dilution control** that limits worker exposure. Easily understood directions\(^ {21} \) for the dilution of cleaning products shall be provided to cleaning staff.

2.7.1.2 Cleaning products shall be applied using the appropriate technology\(^ {22} \) in a manner that prevents overuse and waste of the product.

2.7.1.3 Directions shall be provided for the proper rinsing and disposal of leftover cleaning products and empty containers.

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\(^{20}\) Ensure sufficient ventilation. Blowers may be used to increase ventilation, if necessary.

\(^{21}\) e.g., in appropriate written languages or graphic representation.

\(^{22}\) e.g., coarse spray bottles, automatic chemical dispensers on powered equipment, etc.
2.7.1.4 Storage of Cleaning Products. The cleaning service shall establish locations for the storage of cleaning products within the facility, and establish requirements for proper ventilation, adequate security, safety, and proper management of the area.

2.7.2 Powered Equipment: Maintenance

2.7.2.1 General Powered Equipment Maintenance. The cleaning service shall:

- Ensure that the equipment functions properly or is tagged out of service.
- Use equipment for its full service life.
- Develop a plan for the phase-out of equipment that does not meet the specifications in Section 4.2.
- Establish a quarterly maintenance program to inspect and maintain all equipment, according to manufacturer recommendations. A maintenance log shall be maintained.

2.7.2.2 Vacuum Cleaner Maintenance.

2.7.2.2.1 Vacuum cleaners shall be equipped with the proper filter or bag; the filters shall be changed or cleaned according to manufacturer recommendations.

2.7.2.3.2 Precautions shall be taken to limit worker exposure to dust and particulate matter when cleaning and replacing bags and filters.

2.7.3 Waste Disposal.

2.7.3.1 All waste items that are accepted for recycling in the community shall be stored in separate containers and recycled.

2.7.3.2 Trash shall be disposed of outside in covered containers away from the immediate exterior of the building.

3.0 COMMUNICATION

3.1 Internal Communications. The cleaning service shall establish procedures for cleaning service employees to provide comments and suggestions about workplace issues and suggestions for improvements.

3.2 Communications with the Client. The cleaning service shall:

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23 Section 2.3.3 describes requirements for operations of powered equipment.
24 e.g., paper, glass, plastics, cardboard, other packaging materials, empty chemical containers, and worn equipment
3.2.1 Establish with the client procedures for cleaning personnel to communicate with building management and occupants, and for building management and occupants to provide feedback. The following issues shall be addressed:
- coordination with pest control
- construction and building improvements
- other services

3.2.2 Inform building management about the presence of pests, any maintenance issues, and any situations that interfere with cleaning or recycling operations.\(^{25}\)

3.2.3 Request that the clients identify vulnerable populations in the building and establish a process to meet the requirements in Section 2.5.

3.2.4 Identify an employee who is available to the client as a contact person for information and comment.

3.2.5 Provide building management with:
- a list of all cleaning products used in the building.
- the name, address, and phone number of the contact persons for the cleaning service and the client
- a statement that the cleaning service maintains the product labels and Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) of each product used in the building
- a statement that the labels or SDSs are available for review upon request
- materials that explain how building occupants can reduce the need for more intensive cleaning processes or treatments\(^{26}\)

4.0 PURCHASING

4.1 Environmentally Preferable Cleaning Products and Supplies.

4.1.1 For the following categories of cleaning products and supplies, the cleaning service shall use only environmentally preferable products:
- General-purpose cleaners, floor cleaners, bathroom cleaners, glass cleaners, and carpet cleaners
- Floor finishes and floor strippers
- Liquid hand soap
- Toilet tissue and facial tissue
- Paper towels and napkins

\(^{25}\) e.g., Plants on heaters or floor, restrictions on trash/recycle bin access, unmarked recycling stations
\(^{26}\) e.g., reporting spills and making attempts to reduce clutter in personal spaces

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4.1.2 Plastic liners for trash and recycling cans shall contain a minimum of 10% post-consumer recycled content or have a thickness of less than 0.7 mils. Exemptions may be granted where necessary for the operation of the facility. 27

4.2 **Powered Cleaning Equipment.** Purchases of powered janitorial equipment 28 shall meet the following requirements:
- Vacuum cleaners shall meet the requirements of the Carpet and Rug Institute Green Label Program and shall operate at a sound level below 70 decibels (dBA).
- Carpet extraction equipment must meet the requirements of the Carpet and Rug Institute Bronze Seal of Approval.
- Powered floor maintenance equipment shall capture particles and shall operate at a sound level below 70 dBA.
- Propane-powered floor equipment shall have low-emission engines certified by the California Air Resources Board under the Small Off-Road Engines or Equipment program, and shall be equipped with catalytic and exhaust monitoring.
- Powered scrubbing machines shall be capable of variable rate dispensing.

4.3 **Purchasing in Bulk.** *Cleaning services* shall purchase cleaning products and supplies in quantities that minimize the amount of waste generated from empty packaging and containers.”

4.4 **Recordkeeping.** Purchases of cleaning products shall be tracked at least quarterly.

5.0 **TRAINING**

Training shall be matched to the needs of each employee. 29

5.1 **Initial Training.** Upon hiring, all cleaning personnel shall receive at least 12 hours of training 30 on:
- the safe and effective handling and use of all cleaning products
- cleaning procedures
- use and maintenance of cleaning equipment
- all procedures needed to conform to this standard

Procurement staff shall be trained in the selection of environmentally preferable cleaning materials (Section 4.1).

New hires shall complete an additional 12 hours of training before the end of the first year of hire.

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27 e.g., compostable food-waste bags for composting, or airline regulations for thicker transparent bags.
28 e.g., powered floor scrubbers, burnishers, steam extractors, vacuum cleaners, power washers, and other powered cleaning equipment.
29 e.g., limited English proficiency, physical challenges, or learning disabilities
30 This training may occur before personnel are assigned to a facility or it may be conducted at the site, before beginning independent work.

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5.2 **Safety Training.** As part of initial training, all personnel shall be given standard safety training\(^{31}\) on:
- reducing and preventing ergonomic injuries
- exposure to hazardous materials encountered by personnel of *Cleaning Service*
- proper use of personal protective equipment
- proper rinsing and disposal of leftover cleaning products or their empty containers.

5.3 **Site-Specific Training** shall be provided to all cleaning personnel, focusing on procedures for the facility to which they will be assigned, and covering:
- Facility-specific cleaning plan.
- Measures for protection of *vulnerable populations*.
- How to communicate with the *client* if hazardous events occur.

5.4 **Continuing Training.** All employees\(^ {32}\) who are not in their first year of employment\(^ {33}\) shall receive 24 hours of training on an annual basis. This training shall include in-service training, continuing education, and/or professional development, to maintain knowledge of correct procedures for safety, cleaning products, equipment, techniques, and relevant environmental standards.

5.5 **Records Of Training** shall be maintained on each employee for all training required by this standard.

5.5.1 The documentation shall include:
- the topics included in the training
- a general outline of information covered
- the name and qualifications of the trainer
- the date(s) and duration of the training or courses

5.5.2 Records shall be retained:
- For current employees, two years from each training occurrence
- For former employees, for one year after departure

### 6.0 CERTIFICATION AND LABELING REQUIREMENTS

6.1 **Certification Mark.** The Green Seal\(^ {\text{®}}\) Certification Mark may appear on the property of the certified service and promotional materials, only in conjunction with the certified service. Use of the Mark must be in accordance with *Rules Governing the Use of the Green Seal Certification Mark*\(^ {34}\).

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\(^{31}\) Training required by OSHA may include Right to Know, Hazard Communication, and Bloodborne Pathogens.

\(^{32}\) Including contractor management/supervisors.

\(^{33}\) New hires are required by section 5.1

\(^{34}\) [www.greenseal.org/TrademarkGuidelines](http://www.greenseal.org/TrademarkGuidelines)
The Green Seal Certification Mark shall not be used in conjunction with any modifying terms, phrases, or graphic images that might mislead consumers as to the extent or nature of the certification.

Green Seal must review all uses of the Certification Mark prior to printing or publishing.

6.2 **Use With Other Claims.** The Green Seal Certification Mark shall not appear in conjunction with any human health or environmental claims unless verified and approved in writing by Green Seal.

6.3 **Statement of Basis for Certification.** Wherever the Green Seal Certification Mark appears, it shall be accompanied by a description of the basis for certification. The description shall be in a location, style, and typeface that are easily readable.

The description shall read as follows, unless an alternate version is approved in writing by Green Seal:

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This cleaning service meets Green Seal™ Standard GS-42 based on waste minimization, building-specific operational procedures, effective custodial training, and use of products with limits on human & environmental toxicity. GreenSeal.org.
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ANNEX A – DEFINITIONS (Normative)

Note that the defined terms are italicized throughout the standard.

The definitions listed here may differ from those of other, established, Green Seal standards; where a specific Green Seal standard is not referenced, these definitions apply.

**Cleaning service.** An organization or service within an organization that provides cleaning services to commercial or institutional building owners and operators, including both in-house and external providers.

**Client.** The property that has contracted or retained the cleaning service and individuals that may need to be contacted, including building owners, facility managers, and building occupants, as relevant.

**Concentrate.** A product that must be substantially diluted with water to form the appropriate solution for use (typically at least 1:16).

**Dilution Control:** A procedure that controls the proper dilution of a concentrated product while limiting worker exposure. Examples include tablets, dissolvable film pods, closed dilution systems, and pre-measured pouches.

**Disinfect.** Destroying infectious microorganisms present on hard surfaces.

**Environmentally Preferable Product.** A product certified as such by a Type 1 (i.e., third-party) environmental label that was developed in accordance with the ISO 14024 Environmental Labeling Standard. Alternatively, a product may be designated as environmentally preferable by an established and legitimate, nationally-recognized program developed with the purpose of identifying environmentally preferable products. The program must not have any financial interest or stake in sales of the product, or other conflict of interest. Such designation must be based on consideration of human health and safety, ecological toxicity, other environmental impacts, and resource conservation, as appropriate, for the product and its packaging, on a life cycle basis. Product criteria must distinguish market leadership for that product category, and be publicly available and transparent.

**Sanitize.** Reducing microorganisms to levels specified by public health codes or regulations.

**Vulnerable Population.** Occupants, customers, or employees who are more susceptible than the general population to health risks that may be posed by cleaning operations. Examples of such populations include children, pregnant women, asthmatics, the elderly and infirm, and people with chemical sensitivities (e.g., to fragrances).
APPENDIX 1 – SCOPE (Informative)

Examples of products included in or excluded from the scope of GS-42:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services Included in GS-42</th>
<th>Services Excluded from GS-42</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Cleaning services for commercial or institutional buildings</td>
<td>• Services that clean residential properties or areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cleaning services for hotels, assisted living, hospitals, and similar properties where the residential areas and common/public space are typically cleaned by in-house or contract service providers (i.e., the individual residents are not responsible for the cleaning of the residential areas)</td>
<td>• Specialty cleaning services focusing on only one aspect of cleaning or special cleaning needs, such as deep/restorative carpet cleaning, window washing, upholstery cleaning, or mold remediation services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cleaning services for common or public areas in dormitories, apartments, and similar properties</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>