



March 14, 2008

## **PROJECT INITIATION & NOTIFICATION: New Green Seal™ Environmental Standard for Stains, and Finishes, GS-47**

In the finish and stain market, environmental issues are extremely important, while maintaining a good appearance, durability and applicability of the product. Many stains and finishes have traditionally contained volatile organic solvents and other toxic chemicals that have been linked to poor indoor air quality and possible health impacts. But because of increasing public awareness of indoor air pollution and chemical toxicity in household and building products, there is a need for manufacturers of coatings to offer products that are low in volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and formulated without aromatic solvents, heavy metals, or cancer-causing chemicals.

As a result, Green Seal is proposing the development of a new environmental standard on stains, and finishes (*Proposed Title: Green Seal Environmental Standard for Stains, and Finishes, GS-47*). Green Seal is a non-profit organization devoted to working towards environmental sustainability through environmental standard setting, product certification, and public education. The intent of Green Seal's standards is to reduce, to the extent technically and economically feasible, the environmental impacts associated with the manufacture, use, and disposal of products.

The new standard establish environmental and performance requirements for Stains, and Finishes. The standard is expected to include a standard scope, a definition section, volatile organic content requirements, chemical component restrictions, and packaging and labeling requirements. Some of the detail within each of these sections of the standard will be identified during the scoping phase of the project. Please review this Project's Scoping and Stakeholder Invitation for information about that phase of the project.

The development of this new standard will be led by Green Seal staff, with input from experts and stakeholders through the process. Contact Green Seal for information: [standards@greenseal.org](mailto:standards@greenseal.org)

The project is anticipated to have the following steps:

1. Scoping
2. Proposed Standard
3. Final Review of Standard
4. Issued Standard

Information on this project can be found at the Green Seal web site:

[http://greenseal.org/certification/gs47\\_stains\\_clear\\_finishes.cfm](http://greenseal.org/certification/gs47_stains_clear_finishes.cfm)