



**GREEN SEAL™ PROPOSED
ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARD FOR STAINS
AND FINISHES (GS-47)**

June 28, 2008

THE MARK OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

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GREEN SEAL™

Green Seal is a non-profit organization devoted to environmental standard setting, product certification, and public education. Green Seal's mission is to work towards environmental sustainability by identifying and promoting environmentally responsible products, purchasing, and production. Through its standard setting, certification and education programs, Green Seal:

- identifies products that are designed and manufactured in an environmentally responsible manner;
- offers scientific analyses to help consumers make educated purchasing decisions regarding environmental impacts;
- ensures consumers that any product bearing the Green Seal Certification Mark has earned the right to use it; and
- encourages manufacturers to develop new products that are significantly less damaging to the environment than their predecessors.

The intent of Green Seal's environmental requirements is to reduce, to the extent technologically and economically feasible, the environmental impacts associated with the manufacture, use and disposal of products. Set on a category-by-category basis, Environmental Standards focus on significant opportunities to reduce a product's environmental impact.

Green Seal offers certification to all products covered by its Standards. Manufacturers may submit their products for evaluation by Green Seal. Those which comply with Green Seal's requirements may be authorized to use the Green Seal Certification Mark on products and in product advertising. Manufacturers authorized to use the Green Seal Certification Mark on their product are subject to an ongoing program of testing, inspection, and enforcement. For additional information on Green Seal or any of its programs, contact:

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FOREWORD

A. Certification. This Environmental Standard contains the basic requirements for certain products (as defined in the Scope section below) to be certified by Green Seal™ and for their manufacturers to receive authorization to use the Green Seal Certification Mark on products and their packaging, and in product advertising. The requirements are based on an assessment of the environmental impacts of product manufacture, use, and disposal and reflect information and advice obtained from industry, trade associations, users, government officials, environmental and other public interest organizations, and others with relevant expertise. These requirements are subject to revision as further experience and investigation may show is necessary or desirable.

B. Compliance with the Standard. Compliance with this Standard is one of the conditions of certification of a product by Green Seal.

C. Compliance with Government Rules. In order to be authorized to use the Green Seal Certification Mark, the manufacturer of the certified product must disclose all governmental allegations or determinations of violation of federal, state, or local environmental laws or regulations with respect to facilities in which the product is manufactured. Certification will be denied any product manufactured in violation of environmental laws or regulations if, in Green Seal's judgment, such violations indicate that the environmental impacts of the product significantly exceed those contemplated in the setting of the standard.

D. Limitations on Purpose of Standard. Green Seal's Standards provide basic criteria to promote environmental quality. Provisions for product safety have not been included in this Standard because government agencies and other national standard-setting organizations establish and enforce safety requirements.

E. Substantially Equivalent Products. Products that are substantially similar to those covered by this standard in terms of function and environmental impact may be evaluated and certified by Green Seal against the intent of the requirements of this standard.

F. Unanticipated Environmental Impacts. A product which complies with this Standard will not necessarily be certified by Green Seal if, when examined and tested, it is found to have other features which significantly increase its impact on the environment. In such a situation, Green Seal will ordinarily amend its standards to account for the unanticipated environmental impacts.

G. Certification Agreement and Green Seal Rules. In order to be authorized to apply the Green Seal Certification Mark to a product or its packaging, or to use the Green Seal Certification Mark in product advertising, the manufacturer of the product must (1) undergo an initial product evaluation to determine that the product complies with Green Seal's requirements, (2) sign a Green Seal Certification Agreement that, among other things, defines how and where the Green Seal may be used, (3) pay fees to cover the costs of testing and monitoring, (4) agree to an ongoing program of factory inspections and product testing, and (5) comply with the requirements found in the most recent version of "Rules Governing the Use of the Green Seal Certification Mark."

H. Disclaimer of Liability. Green Seal™, in performing its functions in accordance with its objectives, does not assume or undertake to discharge any responsibility of the manufacturer or any other party. Green Seal shall not incur any obligations or liability for damages, including consequential damages, arising out of or in connection with the interpretation of, reliance upon, or any other use of this Standard.

I. Care in Testing. Many tests required by Green Seal's Standards involve safety considerations. Adequate safeguards for personnel and property should be employed in conducting such tests.

J. Referenced Standards. Standards referenced in this document may have been superseded by a later edition, and it is intended that the most recent edition of all referenced standards be used in determining compliance of a product with this standard.

K. Labeling Requirements. This standard neither modifies nor supersedes government labeling requirements. Labeling language which varies in form from the requirements of this section may be used with the written approval of Green Seal.

List of Acronyms

ANSI. American National Standards Institute

BHMA. Builders Hardware Manufacturers Association

ASTM. American Society for Testing and Materials

CFR. Code of Federal Regulations

EPA. United States Environmental Protection Agency

FR. Federal Registry

GHS. Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals

GC. Gas Chromatography

IARC. International Agency for Research on Cancer

IRIS. Integrated Risk Information System

MS. Mass spectrometry

NTP. National Toxicology Program

OSHA. Occupational Safety and Health Administration

GREEN SEAL™ PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARD FOR STAINS AND FINISHES (GS-47)

1.0 SCOPE

This standard establishes environmental, health, and performance requirements for stains and finishes. It applies to stains that are water-borne, solvent-borne, semi-transparent or opaque, and finishes such as varnishes, shellacs, water-based finishes, polyurethane, lacquer, and oil finishes. Also included are clear metal lacquers, the classification of which refers specifically to clear coatings for the protection of polished and satin metal including ferrous and non ferrous metal. Finishes for floors, standard paint, recycled paint and floor stripper products are not included in this standard.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

2.1 Aromatic Solvent. An organic solvent that has a benzene ring in its molecular structure.

2.2 Carcinogens. Chemicals listed as a known, probable, reasonably anticipated, or a possible human carcinogen by IARC (Groups 1, 2A, and 2B), NTP (Groups 1 and 2), EPA, IRIS (weight-of-evidence classifications A, B1, B2, C, carcinogenic, likely to be carcinogenic, and suggestive evidence of carcinogenicity or carcinogen potential), or OSHA.

2.3 Coating. Liquid, liquefiable, or mastic composition that is converted to a solid adherent film after application to a substrate as a thin layer and is used for decorating, protecting, identifying or to serve some functional purpose such as the filling or concealing of surface irregularities or the modification of light and heat radiation characteristics and is intended for on-site application to interior or exterior surfaces of residential, commercial, institutional or industrial wood or metal surfaces. For the purposes of this standard, the definition of coating does not include paints, recycled latex paint, specialty (industrial, marine or automotive) coatings or paint sold in aerosol cans.

2.4 Clear brushing lacquer: Clear brushing lacquer, a clear, durable protective wood finish that combines the look of a traditional lacquer with the ease of brush application. Clear brushing lacquer can be used over bare or stained wood as well as metal.

2.5 Clear metal lacquers. Ferrous and non-ferrous ornamental metal lacquer and surface protectants as classified under U.S.EPA, 40 CFR Part 59, 48848 VOL. 63, No.176 September 1998, last amended 9-99. This classification refers specifically to Clear Coatings for the protection of polished and satin metal: brass, bronze, aluminum, and stainless steel.

2.6 Clear wood finishes. Coatings including lacquers and varnishes, applied to wood substrates to provide a transparent or translucent solid film.

2.7 Exterior. Products formulated and intended for application on outdoor surfaces. If a product is multipurpose (i.e. interior and exterior application) the stricter limitations apply and the product must meet all the appropriate performance criteria

2.8 Finish. A clear coating that sits on or in the surface of the wood.

2.9 Ingredient. Any constituent of a product that is intentionally added or known to be a contaminant that comprises at least 0.01% by weight of the product.

2.10 Intentional Introduction. The act of deliberately utilizing a material in the formation of a package or packaging component where its continued presence is desired in the final package or packaging component to provide a specific characteristic, appearance, or quality.

2.11 Interior. Products formulated and intended for application on indoor surfaces. If a product is multipurpose (i.e. interior and exterior application) the stricter limitations apply and the product must meet all the appropriate performance criteria.

2.12 Lacquer. A coating substance consisting of resinous materials, such as cellulose esters or ethers, shellac, or gum or alkyd resins, dissolved in ethyl alcohol or other solvent that evaporates rapidly on application, leaving a tough, adherent film. It is flexible, durable, and easy to maintain. A lacquer is suitable to coat both wood and metal.

2.13 Mutagen. A chemical that meets the criteria for category 1, chemicals known to induce heritable mutations or to be regarded as if they induce heritable mutations in the germ cells of humans, under the GHS which cause mutations in germ cells (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, GHS. First Edition).

2.14 Opaque stain. A pigmented composition intended for use on wooden surfaces to produce a uniform coating that obscures the grain and color of the wood, but not its surface texture, also called solid color or solid hide.

2.15 Ozone-Depleting Compounds. A compound with an ozone-depletion potential greater than 0.01 (CFC 11=1) according to the US EPA list of Class I and Class II Ozone-Depleting Substances.

2.16 Oil finishes. Natural finishes derived from plants. They are used to treat and preserve wood.

2.17 Post-Consumer Content. Material that would otherwise be destined for solid waste disposal, having completed its intended end-use and product life cycle. Post-consumer material does not include materials and by-products generated from, and commonly reused within, an original manufacturing and fabrication process.

2.18 Primary Package. Package that is the material physically containing and coming into contact with the product, not including the cap or lid.

2.19 Radiation-Cured Coating. A coating formulated so that the curing reaction is produced by projecting electromagnetic radiation (ultraviolet, visible, or infrared light) onto the uncured coating after application.

2.20 Recovered Material. Material that has been recovered from or otherwise diverted from the waste generated after a material manufacturing process. Recovered material may include post-consumer material, cuttings, trimmings, obsolete inventories, and rejected unused stock, but does not include material capable of being re-used within the process that generated it.

2.21 Recyclable. The package can be collected in a substantial majority of communities, separated or recovered from the solid waste stream and used again, or reused in the manufacture or assembly of another package or product through an established recycling program.

2.22 Semi-Transparent. A pigmented composition intended for use on wood surfaces to produce a uniform coating that does not fully obscure the grain or the texture of the wood.

2.23 Shellac. A natural resin, with an alcohol base, and gives a dark coating. It is available in two forms - flaked and liquid, both mixed with alcohol to acquire a thin consistency.

2.24 Solvent. A liquid used in a coating for dissolving or dispersing constituents in a coating, adjusting the viscosity of a coating, cleaning, or wash off. When used in a coating, it evaporates during drying and does not become a part of the dried film.

2.25 Solvent-Borne Coating. A coating that contains 5% or less water as the volatile constituent, the remainder being organic solvent.

2.26 Stain. Any color coating that is applied in single or multiple coats directly to the substrate. Includes, but is not limited to, non-grain-raising stains, equalizer stains, sap stains, body stains, no-wipe stains, penetrating stains, and toners.

2.27 Varnishes. Clear wood finishes formulated with various resins to dry by chemical reaction.

2.28 Volatile Organic Compound (VOC). Any organic compound having an initial boiling point lower than or equal to 280°C measured at standard conditions of temperature and pressure.

2.29 Volatile Constituent. The solvent portion of a coating.

2.30 Water-Borne Coating. One which, as supplied and applied, contains more than 5% of its volatile constituent as water.

3.0 PRODUCT SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Exterior Wood Stains. The exterior wood stain shall meet the following performance characteristics:

3.1.1 Blister Resistance. The exterior wood stain shall be resistant to moisture blistering when tested in accordance with ASTM D 4585 and ASTM D 714 for 24 hours at 100 °F

3.1.2 Adhesion. The exterior wood stain shall have an adhesion of 3B or higher when tested in accordance to ASTM D3359.

3.1.3 Abrasion Resistance. Dried exterior wood stain shall be able to withstand wear from foot traffic and marring from objects rolled or pulled across the surface when tested in accordance with ASTM D 4060.

3.1.4 Chemical Resistance. When tested in accordance with ASTM D 1308 using hydrochloric acid, simple green cleaner, sodium hydroxide, toluene, or ethanol, the exterior wood stain shall demonstrate a rating of 10.

3.2 Interior Wood Stains. The interior wood stain shall meet the following performance characteristics:

3.2.1 Pencil Hardness. When prepared and tested according to ASTM D 3363 – 92a, the interior wood stain shall have a pencil hardness of 3H or greater.

3.2.2 Blister Resistance. The interior wood stain shall be resistant to moisture blistering when tested in accordance with ASTM D 4585 and ASTM D 714.

3.2.3 Chemical Resistance. When tested in accordance with ASTM D 1308 using hydrochloric acid, simple green cleaner, sodium hydroxide, toluene, or ethanol, the interior wood stain shall demonstrate a rating of 10.

3.2.4 Adhesion. The interior wood stain shall have an adhesion of 4B or higher when tested in accordance to ASTM D3359.

3.3 Exterior Wood Finishes. The exterior wood finish shall meet the following performance characteristics:

3.3.1 Pencil Hardness. When prepared and tested according to ASTM D 3363, the finish shall have a pencil hardness of 5H or greater.

3.3.2 Dry Time. When tested according to ASTM D 1640 the exterior wood finish shall have a maximum dry time of 4 hrs.

3.3.3 Adhesion. The interior wood stain shall have an adhesion of 4B or higher when tested in accordance to ASTM D3359.

3.3.4 Chemical Resistance. When tested in accordance with ASTM D 1308 using hydrochloric acid, simple green cleaner, sodium hydroxide, toluene, or ethanol, the exterior wood finish shall demonstrate a rating of 10.

3.3.5 Blister resistance. The exterior wood finish must be resistant to moisture blistering when tested in accordance with ASTM D 4585 and ASTM D 714.

3.4 Interior Wood Finishes. The interior wood finish shall meet the following performance characteristics:

3.4.1 Pencil Hardness: When prepared and tested according to ASTM D 3363 – 92a, the interior wood finish shall have a pencil hardness of 3H or greater.

3.4.2 Blister Resistance: The interior wood finish shall be resistant to moisture blistering when tested in accordance with ASTM D 4585 and ASTM D 714.

3.4.3 Chemical Resistance: When tested in accordance with ASTM D 1308 using hydrochloric acid, simple green cleaner, sodium hydroxide, toluene, or ethanol, the interior wood finish shall demonstrate a rating of 10.

3.4.4 Adhesion: The interior wood finish shall have an adhesion 4B or higher when tested in accordance to ASTM D3359.

3.5 Exterior Clear Metal Lacquers. The exterior clear metal lacquer shall meet the following performance criteria:

3.5.1 Adhesion. The exterior clear metal lacquer shall have an adhesion 4B or higher when tested in accordance to ASTM D3359.

3.5.2 Surface Hardness. The exterior clear metal lacquer shall have a minimum surface hardness of 3H or higher (7.1.1) when tested in accordance to ASTM D3363.

3.5.3 Moisture Resistance. The exterior clear metal lacquer shall have a moisture resistance of a minimum of 100 hours when tested according to ASTM D2247.

3.5.4 Chemical Resistance. The clear metal lacquer shall demonstrate a rating of 10. When tested in accordance to ASTM D-1308; 3-1-2; 6-1-7 for a minimum 15 minutes.

3.5.5 Salt Spray Resistance. The exterior clear metal lacquer shall have a minimum salt spray resistance of 100 hours when tested in accordance to ASTM B117.

3.5.6 Wear Resistance. The wear resistance shall be 4 liters or higher when tested in accordance to ASTM D968.

3.5.7 Reversibility. The coating must be able to be removed by nothing stronger than Acetone when tested according to ASTM D-4752-87 with a maximum of 20 double rubs for complete removal.

3.5.8 UV Resistance. The exterior clear metal lacquer shall have a UV resistance of a minimum of 144 hours when tested with ASTM G154.

3.6 Interior Clear Metal Lacquers. The interior clear metal lacquer shall meet the following performance criteria:

3.6.1 Adhesion. The interior clear metal lacquer shall have an adhesion of 4B or higher when tested in accordance to ASTM D3359.

- 3.6.2 Surface Hardness.** The interior clear metal lacquer shall have a minimum surface hardness of 4H or higher (7.1.1) when tested in accordance to ASTM D3363.
- 3.6.3 Moisture resistance:** the interior clear metal lacquer shall have a minimum moisture resistance of a minimum of 48 hours when tested according to ASTM D2247.
- 3.6.4 Chemical Resistance.** The interior clear metal lacquer shall demonstrate a rating of 10 when tested in accordance to ASTM D-1308; 3-1-2; 6-1-7 for a minimum of 15 minutes.
- 3.6.5 Salt Spray Resistance.** The interior clear metal lacquer shall have a minimum salt spray resistance of 24 hours when tested in accordance to ASTM B117.
- 3.6.6 Wear Resistance.** The interior clear metal lacquer shall have 8 liters or higher when tested in accordance to ASTM D968.
- 3.6.7 Reversibility.** The interior clear metal lacquer shall be able to be removed by nothing stronger than Acetone when tested according to ASTM D-4752-87 Max 20 double rubs for complete removal
- 3.6.8 Perspiration Resistance.** The interior clear metal lacquer shall have a minimum of 2 cycles testing in accordance to ANSI/BHMA A156.18-2006

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

4.1 VOC Content Limits. VOC content shall not exceed those listed in table 1, as determined GC/MS method or ASTM D6886-03 Standard Test Method for Speciation of the VOCs in Low VOC Content Waterborne Air-Dry Coatings by Gas Chromatography using 280°C as a specified limit.¹ Additionally, an equivalent test method may be used if accompanied by justification for the method modification and documented in sufficient detail.

¹ For VOC levels >15%, US EPA Method 24 or ISO 11890 *Paints and varnishes -- Determination of volatile organic compound (VOC) content Part 1: Difference method* may be used.

Table 1: VOC limits on stains and finishes

Coating type		VOC Content (g/L as applied)
Finishes	Varnishes	350
	Oil finishes	350
	Lacquer	550
	Clear lacquer brushing	680
	Shellacs/pigmented	550
	Shellacs/Clear	730
Stains	Water-borne stains	250
	Solvent-borne stains	250
	Semi-transparent stains	250
	Opaque stains	250

4.2 Chemical Prohibitions. The product shall not contain the following ingredients:

- Carcinogens
- Mutagens
- Reproductive toxins
- Hazardous air pollutants
- Ozone depleting compounds
- Heavy metals including lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent, chromium, and antimony in the elemental form or compounds.
- Ethylene glycol
- Halogenated solvents
- Aromatic solvents

5.0 PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS

5.1 Recovered Content. The primary package shall contain the state-of-the-art amount of recovered material and post-consumer content. Where a product's package is below these levels, the manufacturer must demonstrate that efforts have been made to use the maximum available post-consumer material in the package.

5.2 Heavy Metal Restrictions. Heavy metals, including lead, mercury, cadmium, and hexavalent chromium, shall not be intentionally introduced. Further, the sum of the concentration levels of these metals present shall not exceed 100 parts per million by weight (0.01%); an exception is allowed for packages that would not exceed this maximum level but for the addition of recovered materials. Further, intentional introduction does not include the use of one of the metals as a processing aid or intermediate to impart certain chemical or physical changes during manufacturing, where the incidental retention of a residual of that metal in the final package or packaging component is not desired or deliberate, if the final package or packaging component complies with the incidental concentration restrictions of 100 ppm.

5.3 Other Restrictions. Phthalates and chlorinated compounds are prohibited from being intentionally introduced; an exception is allowed for packages that would not have added phthalates or chlorinated compounds but for the addition of recovered material.

6.0 COMMUNICATION AND LABELING REQUIREMENTS

Unless otherwise approved in writing by Green Seal, the following labeling requirements shall apply:

6.1 The manufacturer's label shall include a statement encouraging consultation with local authorities regarding proper disposal or recycling opportunities for leftover product and packaging. The label shall include instructions for appropriate purchasing, adequate ventilation during drying time, and proper use of the product or include a reference to consumer education information by print, online or other accessible media. If the manufacturer provides a take-back program, the label shall include instructions on how the product and packaging can be returned.

6.2 The Green Seal Certification Mark must appear on the packaging. 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.

6.3 Whenever the certification mark appears on a package or product, the product or package must contain a description of the basis for the certification. The description shall be in a location, style, and typeface that are easily readable by the consumer. The description shall read as follows:

This product meets the Green SealTM environmental standard for Stains and Finishes based on product performance, reduced use of hazardous substances, and reduced volatile organic compound (VOC) content.