



January 29, 2010

**NOTIFICATION TO STAKEHOLDERS: GREEN SEAL ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARD FOR RESIDENTIAL CLEANING SERVICES, GS-49, ISSUANCE**

The new Green Seal Environmental Standard for Residential Cleaning Services, GS-49, is complete and is now available for applications for Green Seal certification.

The standard establishes a broad set of environmental requirements including:

- Comprehensive standard operating procedures of cleaning services
- Prevention of cross contamination (within and between residences)
- Use of certified environmentally preferable cleaning products
- Use of environmentally preferable cleaning tools and equipment
- Specific cleaning procedures to ensure effectiveness without overuse of cleaning chemicals or disinfectants
- Careful attention to vulnerable population needs such as infants and pets
- Proper chemical storage, handling, use and disposal and waste handling
- Quality control assessments
- Staff training
- Company commitment and communication

The standard can serve as a tool to help companies begin to take action to improve their cleaning services and is available for certification. The standard can be found at:

[http://www.greenseal.org/certification/GS-49\\_residential\\_cleaning.cfm](http://www.greenseal.org/certification/GS-49_residential_cleaning.cfm)

Green Seal certification involves a Green Seal technical staff review of data and information for compliance to the standard's requirements. A site visit is then conducted to further evaluate compliance. Marketing material is reviewed for compliance to the standard and FTC requirements. If the service meets the Green Seal standard, it will be awarded the Green Seal. The seal may be used in advertising, promotional materials, and in operation/business descriptions.

Once certified, businesses are subject to monitoring to ensure that they continue to meet the standard. Any deviation is immediately brought to the company's attention and corrective action must be instituted within an appropriate time. Non-compliance may result in termination of the business' privilege to carry the Green Seal.

Thank you for your interest and time to help develop this new standard, and we look forward to helping company make and consumers find environmentally preferable residential cleaning services.

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