



January 4, 2010

PROJECT INITIATION & NOTIFICATION: New Green Seal Environmental Standard for Specialty Cleaning Products, GS-52

Green Seal™ is proposing the development of a new environmental standard on specialty cleaning products (*Proposed Title: Green Seal Environmental Standard for Specialty Cleaning Products GS-52*). 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.

Green Seal issued a revision to the widely utilized environmental standard on Industrial and Institutional Cleaners (GS-37) on August 28, 2009. This is the leading standard for identifying environmentally preferable cleaning products for schools, governments, and health care facilities. For example, Green Seal is included in more green cleaning government programs than any other program and considered the only acceptable means of identifying green cleaning products in a growing number of programs.¹ This is because use of this standard has proven to meet the goals of purchasing environmentally preferable products by reducing occupational hazards, reducing waste, and also reducing costs². As a result, there has been significant interest in new Green Seal standards that address the cleaning product categories not included in GS-37; hence, this new standard for specialty products will be developed.

This new standard will leverage the extensive stakeholder process used to revise GS-37. The GS-37 health and environmental requirements will serve as a basis with the new standard development project also developing requirements related to performance, packaging, and labeling for these specialty cleaning product categories. The products proposed to be included in this standard include general disinfectant cleaners, sanitizing cleaners, biologically-based cleaners, metal cleaners, graffiti removers, boat cleaners, deck cleaners, car cleaners, oven cleaners, and other cleaning products sold for specific uses not covered in the GS-37 standards.

The development of this new standard will be led by Green Seal staff, with input from stakeholders throughout the process. Contact Green Seal for additional information at standards@greenseal.org.

The development project is anticipated to have the following steps:

1. Scoping
2. Proposed Standard
3. Approval of Standard
4. Issued Standard

Information on this project can be found at the Green Seal web site:
http://www.greenseal.org/certification/g52_specialtycleaning_dev.cfm

¹ ISSA. Green Cleaning Product Procurement Policies, Initiatives, and Requirements in the US. 2009.

² www.co.hennepin.mn.us/images/HCInternet/EPandT/Environment/Green%20Government/LBECCaseStudyGreenCleanersatHCMC.pdf