A request for interpretation of a standard may be submitted at any time. A separate request for interpretation form is required for each interpretation submitted. The Secretariat of the appropriate Joint Committee will respond within 30 days of receipt of the interpretation form advising whether the submitted interpretation reflects the intention of the Joint Committee or not. If dissatisfied with the interpretation, the requester may file an Issue Paper for further consideration of the matter by the full Joint Committee.

NSF Standard(s) Impacted: ANSI/BIFMA e3 2019 compared to ANSI/BIFMA e3 2014

Section of the Standard for Interpretation:
Provide the reference for the specific section(s) of the standard(s) for which interpretation is requested.

Please review ANSI/ BIFMA e3 2019 credit 6.3.3. (below) as compared to ANSI/ BIFMA 2014 credit 5.6.

**ANSI/BIFMA e3 2019**

6.3.3 Bio-based Renewable Materials – Sustainable Wood

Wood specified in the product, other than recovered or reused wood, shall not contain endangered wood species unless the trade of such wood conforms with the requirements of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Appendix I or II, and is harvested according to the applicable laws and regulations of the country of origin.

By fulfilling one of the two criteria below, the applicant can earn a maximum of two points in this credit, as detailed in 6.3.3.1 and 6.3.3.2.

6.3.3.1 25% of the Product Weight

The applicant shall receive one product point if:

a) a minimum of 25% of the total product weight conforms to a third-party certification program for environmentally and socially responsible forest management including but not limited to, chain of custody practices throughout the supply chain; and

b) the applicant shall make the identity of third-party certification program publicly available.

6.3.3.2 50% of the Product Weight

The applicant shall receive one additional product point if:

a) a minimum of 50% of the total product weight conforms to a third-party certification program for environmentally and socially responsible forest management including but not limited to, chain of custody practices throughout the supply chain; and

b) the applicant shall make the identity of third-party certification program publicly available.

**ANSI/BIFMA e3 2014**

5.6 Bio-Based Renewable Materials – Sustainable Wood

Wood specified in the product, other than recovered or reused wood, shall not contain endangered wood species, unless the trade of such wood conforms with the requirements of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Appendix I or II, and is harvested according to the applicable laws and regulations of the country of origin.
In order to qualify for these points the product to be assessed shall contain at least 5 percent wood by weight. By fulfilling one of the two criteria below, the applicant can earn a maximum of two points in this credit, as detailed in 5.6.1 and 5.6.2.

5.6.1 Basic Level

The applicant shall receive one point if:

— A minimum of 20 percent of the total wood weight of the product conforms to a third party certification program for environmentally and socially responsible forest management including but not limited to, chain of custody practices throughout the supply chain;

— The applicant publicly declares the third-party certification program.

5.6.2 Advanced Level

The applicant shall receive two points if:

— A minimum of 30 percent of the total wood weight of the product conforms to a third party certification program for environmentally and socially responsible forest management including but not limited to, chain of custody practices throughout the supply chain; and

— The applicant publicly declares the third-party certification program.

Requestor’s Interpretation of the Section:

Provide the proposed interpretation of the section listed above. You may also want to provide an example of the situation in which you are applying this section of the standard.

Should not third-party verification of wood only be related to the total weight of the wood?

It seems like a large jump from 20% sustainable wood for at least 5% total product weight (2014) to 25% total product weight (2019).

**Recommendation:** a minimum of 50% | 75% of the total wood weight for the product conforms to a third-party certification program.

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Signature*: Morna Hallsaxton
Company: Intertek
Telephone Number: 616-656-7489 Email: mjhalldesign@gmail.com
Submission Date: January 9, 2020

*Type written name will suffice as signature*
**Is the Interpretation consistent with the intent of the Joint Committee?**  
(For NSF internal use only)

Yes ☒  No ☐

**Explanation of the Interpretation Decision:**
Joint Committee Chairs provide an explanation for their decision regarding the Interpretation, which references any specific section(s) of the standard(s) that are related to the issue, as appropriate.

Workgroup 1 made the decision to “strengthen” the Standard by “raising the bar” for sustainable wood; thus, the change from 1% of total product weight (20% of 5%) to 25% and 30% of total product weight.

The focus of the credit changed from “total wood weight of the product” to “total product weight”. This was changed so the credit would have a larger focus on wood. For example, in the past it was very easy for a metal chair (with a small amount of wood) to obtain this credit. The Work Group determined since it is a wood credit, the focus needs to be more on wood.

Joint Committee Chair: _____________________________ Date: 6-02-2020