



*NSF International Standard /
American National Standard*

NSF/ANSI 173 - 2009

Dietary Supplements



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American National Standard
for Dietary Supplements —

Dietary supplements

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Contents

1	General	1
1.1	Purpose	1
1.2	Scope	1
1.3	Formulation submission	1
2	Normative references	2
3	Definitions	5
4	Labeling and literature requirements	7
5	Product requirements – verified by testing laboratories	7
5.1	Identity	7
5.2	Quantity	7
	Table 1 – Quantity of dietary ingredients required for testing	8
5.3	Contaminants	8
5.4	Disintegration	10
5.5	Oils	10
6	Test methods used by testing laboratories for identification and quantification of ingredients – raw materials and finished products	10
6.1	Identification test methods	10
6.2	Quantification test methods	12
7	Test methods used by testing laboratories for detection of contaminants – raw materials and finished products	13
7.1	Test methods for metals	13
7.2	Pesticides	14
	Table 2 – CAS numbers for pesticides present in <i>Panax ginseng</i> and <i>Panax quinquefolius</i>	14
7.3	Test methods for microbiological contaminants	14
7.4	Test methods for chemical contaminants	15
8	Good Manufacturing Practices	16
8.1	Written recall procedures	16
8.2	Compliance with The Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002	16
8.3	Compliance with the Dietary Supplement and Non Prescription Drug Consumer Protection Act	16
	Table 3 – Test methods for dietary ingredients	17
	Table 4 – Test methods for marker constituent compounds	19
	Table 5A – Acceptable limits for microbiological contaminants in raw materials	20
	Table 5B – Acceptable limits for pathogenic microbiological contaminants in raw materials	20
	Table 6A – Acceptable limits for microbiological contaminants in finished products	21
	Table 6B – Acceptable limits for pathogenic microbiological contaminants in finished products	21
Annex A		A1
	Table A1 – Botanicals known or suspected to contain aristolochic acid	A1
Annex B		B1
B.1	Metals	B1
B.2	Microbiological contaminants	B1

Annex C.....	C1
C.1 Normalization of laboratory data	C1
C.2 Sampling and reporting of laboratory data.....	C1
C.3 Normalization calculations	C1

Foreword²

The purpose of NSF/ANSI 173 is to serve as an evaluation tool for analyzing dietary supplements. Certification to this Standard serves as a communication tool between manufacturers of ingredients and finished product, retailers, healthcare practitioners, and consumers. This Standard provides test methods and evaluation criteria to allow for the determination that a dietary supplement contains the ingredients claimed on the label, either qualitatively or quantitatively, and that it does not contain specific undeclared contaminants. In some instances, validated laboratory methods are not yet available for analyzing certain ingredients. In such cases, new methods will be added to this Standard as they become available.

NSF/ANSI 173 was developed with participation from the dietary supplements industry, public health regulators, and distributors of dietary supplements. Participation and technical guidance was provided by representatives of the American Herbal Products Association, the American Pharmaceutical Association, the Consumer Healthcare Products Association, the Council for Responsible Nutrition, the National Institutes of Health, and the National Nutritional Foods Association.

This version includes the following revisions:

- Incorporates NSF/ANSI 173 – 2008 Addendum, which includes issue 20, revisions to sections which address industrial contaminants; and
- Issue 24 modifications were added to the standard language to define the types of ingredients that are associated with the acceptable limits categories in tables and 6A and 6B.

NSF offers a certification program to this Standard. Products certified by NSF carry the NSF Mark, the leading mark in public health and safety certification around the world. The NSF Mark on a product gives consumers and retailers assurance that the product meets the requirements of the NSF Standard. For more information on the NSF certification program, please contact the General Manager of Dietary Supplements, P.O. Box 130140, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48113-0140 or at 734-769-8010.

Suggestions for improvement of this Standard are welcome. Comments should be sent to Chair, Dietary Supplements, c/o NSF International, Standards Department, P.O. Box 130140, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48113-0140, USA.

² The information contained in this Foreword is not part of this American National Standard (ANS) and has not been processed in accordance with ANSI's requirements for an ANS. Therefore, this Foreword may contain material that has not been subjected to public review or a consensus process. In addition, it does not contain requirements necessary for conformance to the Standard.

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NSF International Standard for Dietary Supplements —

Dietary supplements

1 General

1.1 Purpose

This Standard provides test methods and evaluation criteria for dietary supplement products to allow for the determination that the ingredients in the product are accurately identified, that the product contains the quantity of dietary ingredients and marker constituents declared on the product label, and that the product does not contain unacceptable quantities of contaminants.

This Standard also provides criteria for determining that Good Manufacturing Practices were followed in the production of dietary supplements.

1.2 Scope

This Standard contains requirements for dietary supplements that contain one or more of the following dietary ingredients: a vitamin, a mineral, an herb or other botanical, an amino acid, a dietary substance for use by man to supplement the diet by increasing the total dietary intake, or a concentrate, metabolite, constituent, extract, or combinations of these ingredients. This Standard does not include products represented for use as conventional foods.

Products and ingredients deemed a hazard to public health or safety by a regulatory agency having jurisdiction shall be excluded from the scope of this document. Conventional foods are excluded from the scope of this Standard.

1.3 Formulation submission

The manufacturer shall submit, at a minimum, the following information for each product:

- complete formulation information, which includes the following:
 - the composition of the formulation (in percent or parts by weight for each ingredient in the formulation including excipients);

NOTE – Ranges shall be considered acceptable.
 - the reaction process, if applicable;
 - the raw material ID number (if applicable), chemical/material name, trade name and supplier(s) for each chemical present in the formulation;
 - a list of known or suspected impurities associated with the finished product; and

- when available, an analytical method used to verify the claims listed on the label or certificate of analysis.

2 Normative references

The following documents contain provisions that, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this Standard. At the time this Standard was written, the editions indicated were valid. All documents are subject to revision, and parties are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the document indicated below.

AHP, American Herbal Pharmacopoeia and Therapeutic Compendium, *Ashwagandha Root*, April 2000³

AHP, American Herbal Pharmacopoeia and Therapeutic Compendium, *Astragalus Root*, August 1999⁴

AHP, American Herbal Pharmacopoeia and Therapeutic Compendium, *Bilberry fruit*, 2001⁴

AHP, American Herbal Pharmacopoeia and Therapeutic Compendium, *Black Cohash root*, 2002⁴

AHP, American Herbal Pharmacopoeia and Therapeutic Compendium, *Black Haw Bark*, June 2000⁴

AHP, American Herbal Pharmacopoeia and Therapeutic Compendium, *Chaste Tree Fruit*, 2001⁴

AHP, American Herbal Pharmacopoeia and Therapeutic Compendium, *Cramp Bark*, February 2000⁴

AHP, American Herbal Pharmacopoeia and Therapeutic Compendium, *Cranberry*, 2002⁴

AHP, American Herbal Pharmacopoeia and Therapeutic Compendium, *Dang Gui Root*, 2003⁴

AHP, American Herbal Pharmacopoeia and Therapeutic Compendium, *Echinacea purpurea Root*, 2004⁴

AHP, American Herbal Pharmacopoeia and Therapeutic Compendium, *Ginkgo Leaf*, 2003⁴

AHP, American Herbal Pharmacopoeia and Therapeutic Compendium, *Goldenseal*, 2001⁴

AHP, American Herbal Pharmacopoeia and Therapeutic Compendium, *Hawthorn Berry*, June 1999⁴

AHP, American Herbal Pharmacopoeia and Therapeutic Compendium, *Hawthorn Leaf with Flower*, February 1999⁴

AHP, American Herbal Pharmacopoeia and Therapeutic Compendium, *Reishi Mushroom*, September 2000⁴

AHP, American Herbal Pharmacopoeia and Therapeutic Compendium, *St. John's Wort*, July 1997⁴

AHP, American Herbal Pharmacopoeia and Therapeutic Compendium, *Schisandra Berry*, October 1999⁴

AHP, American Herbal Pharmacopoeia and Therapeutic Compendium, *Valerian Root*, April 1999⁴

AHP, American Herbal Pharmacopoeia and Therapeutic Compendium, *Willow Bark*, December 1999⁴

AHPA, American Herbal Products Association, *Herbs of Commerce*, 2nd Edition, 2000⁴

³ American Herbal Pharmacopoeia, P. O. Box 66809, Scotts Valley, CA 95067 www.herbal-ahp.org

⁴ American Herbal Products Association, 8484 Georgia Ave., Suite 370, Silver Spring, MD 20910 www.ahpa.org

AOAC International, Food and Drug Administration, *Bacteriological Analytical Manual*, eighth edition (1998)⁵

AOAC International, *Official Methods of Analysis*, 18th edition (2005)⁶

AOCS, American Oil Chemists Society International, *Sampling and Analysis of Commercial Fats and Oils*, Cd 18-90 (1997)⁶

BHP, British Herbal Medicine Association, *British Herbal Pharmacopoeia*, 1996⁷

Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, (40 CFR) Part 141, *National Primary Drinking Water Regulations*⁸

Code of Federal Regulations, Title 21, Chapter 29, *Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act*⁹

Compliance Services International, *Analytical Method for the Determination of Quinotozene and Its Degradates and Impurities in Ground Dried Ginseng Root by Gas Chromatography* Laboratory validation of analytical method number CSI-023-01, 1999⁹

Dietary Supplements Health and Education Act of 1994, (an amendment to the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act): Public Law 103-417 – October 25, 1994¹⁰

INA, *Allucin by High-Performance Liquid Chromatography*¹¹

INA, *Black Cohosh Assay by ELSD*¹²

INA, *Catechins and Gallic Acid in Green Tea by HPLC*¹²

INA, *Fatty Acid Content in Saw Palmetto by Gas Chromatography*¹²

INA, *Ginkgo Flavonol Glycoside Assay by HPLC*¹²

INA, *Ginkgoterpenoid Assay by HPLC*¹²

INA, *Kavalactone Assay by HPLC*¹²

INA, *Phenolics in Echinacea by HPLC*¹²

INA, *St. John's Wort Assay by HPLC*¹²

INA, *Sterols Content in Saw Palmetto by Gas Chromatography*¹²

International Code for Botanical Nomenclature (St. Louis Code), 2000¹²

⁵ AOAC International, 481 Frederick Avenue, Suite 500, Gaithersburg, MD 20877 www.aoac.org

⁶ AOCS, 2211 W. Bradley Ave., Champaign, IL 61821 www.aocs.org

⁷ British Herbal Medicine Association, P. O. Box 304, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH7 6JZ, England www.bhma.info

⁸ U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402 www.gpo.gov

⁹ Compliance Services International, 1112 Alexander Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98421 www.complianceservices.com

¹⁰ Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20401 www.gpo.gov

¹¹ Institute for Nutraceutical Advancement (INA), c/o NSF International, 789 Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105 <http://www.nsf.org/business/ina/index.asp?program=INA>

¹² Sixteenth International Botanical Congress, St. Louis, Missouri, July-August 1999. Publ. 2000, Koeltz Scientific Books

NTIS/IEC 17025: 1999 *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*¹³

The Merck Index: *An Encyclopedia of Chemicals, Drugs and Biologicals* (Annual)¹⁴

*NSF International White Book of NSF Registered and USDA Authorized Proprietary Substances and Nonfood Compounds*¹⁵

Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002, 42 USC 201⁹

USEPA *Methods for the Determination of Metals in Environmental Samples – Supplement, 1 – EPA/600/R-94-111 – May 1994*¹⁶

USEPA *Microwave Assisted Acid Digestion of Sediments, Sludges, Soils and Oils*, EPA Method 3510 – September 1994¹⁷

USEPA *National Primary Drinking Water Regulations* (40 CFR part 141)¹⁷

USFDA, *Bacteriological Analytical Manual*, eighth edition, 2001¹⁸

USFDA, *Pesticide Analytical Manual*, Volume 1. Multiresidue Methods [Base Manual 3rd Edition] 1994 – NTIS report number PB9294911899¹⁷

USFDA, *Pesticide Analytical Manual*, Volume 1 Updates. Irregular reports. 2003 – NTIS report number PB2003911800¹⁸

USFDA, *Pesticide Analytical Manual*, Volume 2. Methods for Individual Residues [Base Manual] – 1991 NTIS report number PB92911999¹⁸

USFDA, *Food Code 2001 Recommendations of the United States Public Health Service Food and Drug Administration*, NTIS report number PB2002100819¹⁸

USFDA, *A Multi-Residue Pesticide Monitoring Procedure for the Determination of 112 Halogenated Pesticides Using Gas Chromatography with Mass Selective Detection and Selected ion Monitoring*. LIB # 4304¹⁸

USFDA, *Determination of Aristolochic Acid in Traditional Chinese Medicines and Dietary Supplements*¹⁸

USP, United States Pharmacopeia, USP 29-NF 24¹⁹

WHO, *World Health Organization Monographs on Selected Medicinal Plants*, Volume 1, 2 and 3²⁰

WHO, *Guidelines for Drinking-Water Quality*²¹

¹³ National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Rd., Springfield, VA 22161 www.ntis.gov

¹⁴ Merck & Company, One Merck Drive, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889 www.merck.com

¹⁵ NSF International, 789 North Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105 www.nsf.org

¹⁶ USEPA, Office of Water, Washington, D. C. 20460 www.epa.gov

¹⁷ U. S. Department of Commerce, Technology Administration, National Technical Information Services, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161 www.ntis.gov

¹⁸ USFDA Forensic Chemistry Center, 1141 Central Pky, Cincinnati, OH 45202 www.fda.gov

¹⁹ United States Pharmacopeia, 121601 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville, MD 20852-1790 www.usp.org

²⁰ World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland www.who.int