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**ANSI/IICRC S500 Consensus Body Issues Position Statement on
Category of Water Damage and Weather-Related Events.**

Las Vegas, NV – March 16, 2026: The ANSI/IICRC S500 Consensus Body (S500 CB) has issued a formal position statement addressing the categorization of water damage resulting from weather-related events.

The statement reads: *“Top-down water ingress, wind-driven rain and water from weather related events are not automatically considered Category 3 Water.”*

The statement also clarifies the application of water damage categories within the ANSI/IICRC S500 Standard for Professional Water Damage Restoration, Fifth Edition (2021) and provides guidance to restoration professionals, insurers, and other stakeholders when evaluating losses caused by storms and natural weather events.

The full position statement can be found on the IICRC Website [here](#).

“This position statement reinforces that the categorization of water damage must be based on actual conditions observed at the loss site,” said the IICRC Standards Chair Brandon Burton. “Weather events in and of themselves do not immediately imply contamination. Proper on-site evaluation ensures that restoration procedures are selected appropriately for each unique project.”

The ANSI/IICRC S500 Standard serves as the industry’s consensus-based procedural standard for water damage restoration, developed through the ANSI process with participation from restoration contractors, industry experts, insurance professionals, public health specialists, and other stakeholders.

This position statement is intended to support consistent interpretation and application of the S500 Standard when evaluating water losses associated with weather-related events.

About the IICRC

The IICRC is a global Standards Developing Organization (SDO), accredited through the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), as well as a credentialing body that certifies individuals in 20+ categories within the Inspection, Cleaning, and Restoration Industries. The IICRC, in partnership with regional and international trade associations, represents the entire

Industries it serves with over 60,000 Certified Technicians and nearly 8,000 Certified Firms in 40+ countries. For more information, visit www.iicrc.org.

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