

BIFMA TO LAUNCH BRANDED CONFORMANCE PROGRAM IN 2020

BIFMA Compliant designed in response to industry need for clear definition of conformance for commercial furniture products entering the market

Grand Rapids, Mich. – June 12, 2019 – The Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association (BIFMA) announced today that it will officially launch BIFMA Compliant, a branded conformance program in October 2020. The voluntary program will create a documented rule set for conformance and provide a registry to allow for ease in identifying products that comply with specific BIFMA standards.

For over 45 years, BIFMA has represented the interests of commercial furniture brands by developing safety and performance standards intended to protect the public. With the launch of LEVEL in 2009, BIFMA’s sustainability certification program, the organization broadened its scope and gained recognition from the architecture and design community for providing access to information to help make more informed choices about the sustainability of commercial furniture products. The new BIFMA Compliant program, once launched, will further establish BIFMA as the authoritative voice for the commercial furniture industry.

“This conformance program has been developed to respond to a market need for more clarity,” said BIFMA Executive Director, Tom Reardon. “As we spoke to members of the design community, and others who participate in the specification of commercial furniture, we heard loud and clear the need for greater ease in identifying products they can trust.”

“Technological and societal shifts have had a profound impact on our industry,” states Don Van Winkle, President and Chief Operating Officer of Kimball International and BIFMA Board President. “Products are entering the market from more sources than ever before and decision makers need better access to information. This program is an important step toward providing that information and delivering needed differentiation.”

BIFMA Compliant will be open to BIFMA members and non-members alike. Furniture manufacturers who elect to participate will upload product information into a searchable online database. Access to the database will be free to anyone interested in finding products that meet industry safety and performance standards.

The program will cover nine mechanical standards that focus on safety and durability.

1. ANSI/BIFMA X5.1 Office Seating
2. ANSI/BIFMA X5.11 Large Occupant Office Seating
3. ANSI/BIFMA X6.1 Educational Seating
4. ANSI/BIFMA X5.4 Lounge and Public Seating
5. BIFMA X6.4 Occasional-Use Seating
6. ANSI/BIFMA X5.5 Desk / Table Products
7. ANSI/SOHO S6.5 Small Office/Home Office
8. ANSI/BIFMA X5.6 Panel Systems
9. ANSI/BIFMA X5.9 Storage Units

Additional details regarding the program, including pricing and contractual requirements will be announced later in 2019.

About BIFMA

BIFMA is the not-for-profit trade association for business and institutional furniture manufacturers. Since 1973, BIFMA has been the voice for the commercial furniture industry, serving member and non-member companies to promote meaningful, market-oriented improvements for all stakeholders.

BIFMA sponsors the development of safety, performance and sustainability standards used across the furniture industry. The association educates the stakeholder community on the importance and proper use of these standards. BIFMA also provides industry statistics and forecasts to members and the public, and advocates for regulatory conditions that enhance value and foster innovation.

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