

September 2019

BIFMA Standards Compliance Product Specification Language

Furniture products that conform to relevant BIFMA safety and performance standards have been tested to repeatable and verifiable criteria intended to simulate expected use in a commercial or other identified environment. All furniture products proposed in response to this request shall conform with the current version of the relevant standard (Note: if the most current version is less than three years old, it is acceptable to meet the prior version). A copy of the product test report or some other form of conformance verification, such as a signed affidavit, is considered acceptable conformance documentation.

For assurance in selecting increasingly sustainable furniture, conformance with the ANSI/BIFMA e3 Furniture Sustainability Standard should also be required.

Brief Description of BIFMA Standards

1. ANSI/BIFMA X5.1 Office Seating – examples include but are not limited to seating styles typically referred to as: executive/management, task/secretarial, side/guest chairs, nesting and/or folding chairs. These chairs are for single occupants and the tests are based on the 95th percentile male body weight (currently 275 lbs.).
2. ANSI/BIFMA X5.11 Large Occupant Office Seating – very similar to X5.1 except the tests are based on the 99.5th percentile male body weight (currently 400 lbs.) and the minimum seat width shall be 22 inches.
3. ANSI/BIFMA X6.1 Educational Seating – typically used for seating products that are primarily designed for use in schools (K-12) and colleges/universities. It includes chair-desks, tablet-arm products, convertible bench/tables. Three sizes of chairs based on seat height. The small and medium size chairs may be more suitable for K-6 environments catering to smaller users. The large size is based on the 95th percentile male body weight.
4. ANSI/BIFMA X5.4 Lounge and Public Seating – primarily designed for use in indoor common or shared spaces such as: waiting, reception, patient rooms, restaurant/dining/cafeteria settings, and other gathering areas. Public seating includes products with single or multiple seat units, arena folding chairs, and standard folding chairs. Tests are based on the 95th percentile male body weight.
5. BIFMA X6.4 Occasional-Use Seating – similar to X5.4 except the durability test cycles are reduced for products that may experience less frequent use or a reduced life expectation.
6. ANSI/BIFMA X5.5 Desk Products – covers commercial desks and tables, including height adjustable tables. It also offers several tests for monitor arms.
7. ANSI/SOHO S6.5 Small Office/Home Office – covers desk-type furniture primarily designed for use in small office, home office, and residential environments. These products may be completely assembled, partially assembled, or totally unassembled (i.e. Ready-to-Assemble (RTA)).

8. ANSI/BIFMA X5.6 Panel Systems – covers the performance requirements for panel systems, screens, panel supported systems, and various hang-on components.

9. ANSI/BIFMA X5.9 Storage – provides test methods for freestanding, mobile, and wall-mounted storage units.

10. ANSI/BIFMA X7.1 Standard for Formaldehyde and TVOC Emissions – provides industry approved emissions requirements for low-emitting seating and office furniture products.

11. ANSI/BIFMA e3 Furniture Sustainability – provides measurable market-based definitions and establishes performance criteria for increasingly sustainable furniture. LEVEL is the conformance mark for furniture products that have been third-party certified to the e3 standard. A comprehensive database of certified products is at: <http://www.levelcertified.org/>. Note that all products certified to the 2019 version of e3 will have met the ANSI/BIFMA X7.1 Emissions standard as a prerequisite. Products certified to an earlier version of e3 may have voluntarily met the emissions standard. Credit 6.2.1 in the 2019 version of e3 offers up to 2 points for products that conform to the relevant safety and performance standards outlined above.