

To: Whom It May Concern
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Date: January 2, 2019

Subject: **Height Adjustable Tables – Obstruction Response**

Furniture manufacturers, suppliers of height adjustable mechanisms, and test labs met in late 2018 to discuss the above subject and share the information and recommendations that follow.

We believe most manufacturers of commercial Height Adjustable Tables (HAT) seek to comply with the accepted industry standard for safety and performance ANSI/BIFMA X5.5 for Desk / Table Products. This industry standard offers performance tests to evaluate products with height adjustable mechanisms. These height adjustable mechanisms generally fall into the following categories: pin (manually adjustable to predetermined heights), counterbalanced, crank-driven, and motor-driven (generally electric). This memo is intended to help industry stakeholders understand how motor-driven tables typically react to attached work surfaces colliding with objects during operation.

Many, but not all, manufacturers of commercial height adjustable motor-driven surfaces (HAT) offer Obstruction Response systems with their products. Obstruction Response systems are most commonly comprised of electronic controls that are designed to respond to surface collisions with objects and thus cause the table to stop further travel. Many systems will have a drive system that also reverses the direction of travel for a short distance. For example, if a motor-driven work surface were to move downwards and collide with a box, rather than crush the box and/or damage table components, the obstruction response system would stop the motor upon engagement (with the box) and then reverse a short distance.

Obstruction Response systems are programmed to manufacturer's specifications, and sensitivity of response to collisions will vary depending upon many factors. These factors may include, but are not limited to: table size, table weight, collision location, number of motorized table legs, hardness or softness of the impacted object, and so on.

Manufacturers should provide detailed instructions regarding the proper use of motor-driven height adjustable products.

Users of motor-driven height adjustable tables should understand the capabilities/limitations and features of their product. Users should know if the unit offers Obstruction Response or not. Users should contact the manufacturer with any questions regarding the proper use of an electric motor-driven product and how the product will or will not react to an obstruction. Children must not be allowed to play with motor-driven height adjustable products.