

WHO WE ARE

BIFMA is the not-for-profit trade association for business and institutional furniture manufacturers.

Our standards have a relevance that goes beyond engineering. Since 1973, we've made it our mission to serve our members operating responsible manufacturing facilities and making responsible products with standards that matter.

Our industry's service to our customers – providing products that support healthy, comfortable, and productive spaces – is grounded on an infrastructure of engineering and materials standards. And standards matter, not only to the companies that make products, but to the employees using those products to get work done.

The role of design is expanding as disruption of the traditional workspace evolves, presenting new and complex challenges to safety, ergonomics, and sustainability. But we're evolving as well. As the voice of the commercial furniture industry, one thing remains the same, delivery of superior service to our customers founded on centuries of craft.

As an advocate for regulatory conditions that foster value and innovation, we're tracking the changes facing our industry. With ongoing outreach to regulators, consumers and international partners we serve as a forum and an educational resource to both our members and the public.

We are continually exploring new ideas and additional advances will be made in the coming year. Here are some of the recent accomplishments we're proud to share from 2017. ■

ANSI/BIFMA Standards

Foundation of the industry

- > ANSI/BIFMA X5.1-2017 General Purpose Office Chairs – Tests were approved by ANSI on February 2, 2017. Two changes of note: 1) the Backrest Strength Test is now more appropriate for seat backs made of flexible materials; and 2) the consistency for testing Front Stability has been improved with use of a load locating fixture.
- > The BIFMA PD-1-2017 Industry Definitions Mechanical Test Standards – Compiled Definitions were updated and approved on February 9, 2017.
- > BIFMA was audited by ANSI and re-accredited as a standards developing organization (SDO).

level

level/e3

Leading sustainability

- > The ANSI/BIFMA Furniture Sustainability Standard and level® Certification Program were recommended by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to help federal purchasers identify and procure environmentally sustainable products.
 - o level certified products will be recognized in GSA Advantage! with an icon noting certification by an EPA recommended program.
 - o The Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council (SPLC) included level in their Guidance for Leadership in Sustainable Purchasing v2 publication for institutional purchasers.
 - o The State of Massachusetts included level in their Guidance for Environmentally Preferable Furniture listing.
 - o The State of New York included level in their new furniture specification.
- > BIFMA launched an enhanced level product database featuring: the ability to search on specific credit criteria, and project management/documentation tools.
- > Data partnerships were negotiated with product selection tools (such as My Resource Library) to provide architects and designers information on level certified products via these information platforms.
- > A level promotional campaign has begun that will include an updated website, collateral materials, a video, educational programs, and expanded outreach.

Flammability Regulations

Safety standard

- > BIFMA continued to urge the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to consider adoption of TB-117-2013 as the national standard for upholstered furniture. The agency is now communicating with the State of California to determine feasibility.
- > BIFMA asked California to repeal TB-133, the open flame requirement, for seating products in non-sprinkled facilities. Commercial building fire statistics do not warrant this requirement and potentially harmful health impacts from the flame retardants themselves are of concern. In November of 2016, the responsible California agency agreed and began the process to repeal TB-133.

International Standards

Leading globally

- > The Chair Measurement Protocol is now a full ISO standard. ISO 24496:2017 Office Furniture – Office Chairs – Methods for the Determination of Dimensions was approved in February 2017 and is our first globally harmonized standard for Furniture (ISO TC136).
- > The BIFMA Flammability Subcommittee has placed ANSI/BIFMA X5.6 Flammability requirements into the draft update for CGSB 44.229 for Panel Systems. To date, the proposal looks promising and could reduce industry flame spread tunnel testing costs.

Miscellaneous Technical

- > Experts from the Seating and Ergonomics Subcommittees wrote the Test Considerations for Sit-Stand Seating and Motion Seating Products.
- > BIFMA conducted a Risk Assessment for Styrene and an Expert Opinion for Lead in regard to California Prop 65. A communication sent in April 2017 provided guidance to membership regarding these compounds.
- > BIFMA secured a Letter of Interpretation from the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) about treatments to textiles and whether suppliers of bulk textiles and fabrics were required to label products or provide Safety Data Sheets to downstream users.

Stats/Data

- > A 56% increase in participation in monthly statistics reporting.

Miscellaneous

- > Membership increased 4% during FY 2017.
- > Supported proof-of-concept research verifying the feasibility of using furniture manufacturing process wood waste as a potential feed stock for 3-D printing purposes.
- > A Board of Directors strategy session resulted in a recommendation to develop a campaign to promote the importance of standards.