

To: Whom It May Concern
From: Dave Panning (dpanning@bifma.org)
Date: January 10, 2014
Subject: **Worst-Case Testing**

This memo is in response to questions regarding “worst-case” product testing for office and institutional furniture per ANSI/BIFMA test standards. Given that most manufacturers offer an array of product sizes and features, it is impractical for a manufacturer to be expected to test all possible combinations of sizes and options. Therefore, BIFMA makes a statement in the General section of each of the ANSI/BIFMA mechanical test standards similar to the following:

Each manufacturer’s model or unit type in any configuration (allowed by the manufacturers planning guide) shall comply with applicable requirements when tested in accordance with this voluntary standard. Only worst-case product, condition, and/or furniture configurations (including height adjustment capability) need to be tested. A worst-case product/condition/configuration shall be representative of all models or units of the type tested. If “worst-case condition” is not readily evident, a case-by-case product line analysis by the manufacturer in consultation with the designated testing facility may be necessary, taking into consideration any special attributes, methods of construction, materials, and/or design features, etc. Instruction documents and other literature provided by the manufacturer will be helpful in determining which products and/or product configurations that are implicitly or explicitly recommended by the manufacturer when determining compliance; it is expected that any and all configurations recommended by the manufacturer will be able to meet the acceptance levels of the tests in this standard. **Note:** More than one product may have to be tested for different tests to cover a product from a worst-case condition standpoint. Consider, for example a manufacturer that offers a variety of wall-hung cabinets up to 1829 mm (72 inches) in length. Testing the 1829 mm (72-inch) unit might be the worst case from a unit loading standpoint while testing a 1219 mm (48-inch) unit for related tests might have to be done because that size unit may contain the longest (worst case) single door; testing the 762 mm (30-inch) long unit may be needed for the Separation and Disengagement tests as the lightest weight product may be the worst case condition for these tests.

Do not hesitate to call or email me with any questions regarding the above statement.