

To: Whom It May Concern
From: Dave Panning (dpanning@bifma.org)
Date: December 3, 2013
Subject: **Testing to Revised ANSI/BIFMA Mechanical Standards**

BIFMA updates and publishes revisions to ANSI/BIFMA standards on an approximate 5-year cycle. Several questions arise when a new edition of an ANSI/BIFMA standard is approved and published.

- 1) **Does the previous edition become obsolete?** No, a company may choose to continue testing to the older revision for a timeframe that is suitable to their needs. It is not uncommon for a product to be developed during a transition to a revision. It is perfectly acceptable to continue with the product development to the edition that was in place at the beginning of the development cycle. Declarations of conformance must be made to the edition to which the product was tested. For example, if a product was tested to ANSI/BIFMA X5.9-2004, a manufacturer cannot claim conformance to ANSI/BIFMA X5.9-2012 but must specifically refer to the 2004 edition!
- 2) **In what timeframe must a company change to the new edition of an ANSI/BIFMA standard?** There is no timeframe requirement. Given product development cycles and testing lead times, many companies cannot feasibly comply with a new edition immediately. Each manufacturer is encouraged to comply with a revised test standard as soon as possible. (Note – Non-Mechanical standards ANSI/BIFMA e3 Furniture Sustainability and ANSI/BIFMA X7.1 Emissions have compliance timeframes).
- 3) **Must a company retest products to all tests of a new edition even if some tests had no changes?** If a particular test requirement had no changes in a revision, then it is not necessary to retest products to that particular test. To claim compliance to a new edition, it is only necessary to test to those tests that were revised. (Note – Non-Mechanical standards ANSI/BIFMA e3 Furniture Sustainability and ANSI/BIFMA X7.1 Emissions have compliance timeframes).
- 4) **Must a company retest products if a standard is reaffirmed?** If a standard is reaffirmed, that indicates that there were either no changes or no substantive changes (only minor editorial changes). Therefore, test requirements did not change and it is not necessary to retest products. Example – ANSI/SOHO S6.5-2008 was recently reaffirmed and is now designated as ANSI/SOHO S6.5-2008 (R2013) without any substantive changes. All test requirements are unchanged.

Notes:

- Compliance to BIFMA standards is voluntary and is not a requirement of BIFMA membership.
- BIFMA does not provide testing. A list of Test Labs can be found at www.bifma.org.
- Retesting time intervals and similar requirements are often customer-specific requirements and/or established by various Government agencies (GSA, CGSB, etc.). Manufacturers are encouraged to contact such entities for specific information and requirements.
- Manufacturers are encouraged to assess product material or design changes and retest products to verify compliance when Engineering evaluation suggests such changes may affect product performance.