



ANSI/BIFMA e3-2011 Furniture Sustainability Standard

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Foreword¹

This Standard was developed by the Joint Committee on BIFMA e3 Furniture Sustainability using the consensus process described by the American National Standards Institute.

The Joint Committee was created by the Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association (BIFMA) and NSF International.

NSF and BIFMA developed this Standard in order to provide the marketplace with a meaningful standard that would harmonize sustainability standards for the office furniture industry and help to distinguish environmentally preferable business and institutional furniture. The Standard was designed to allow for multiple levels of achievement, to provide an open alternative to proprietary protocols.

In ANSI/BIFMA e3-2011 following the annexes, issued interpretations on this ANSI standard are listed. These interpretations are in effect at the time of publication and are subject to change through the balloting process to this standard. This version also contains editorial corrections and the following balloted revisions:

Issue 5 – Section 7.6.2 and Annex C

This revision modified Section 7.6 Low Emitting Furniture, Annex C and the related normative references in Section 2.

Issue 6 – Interpretation for section 6.3.1

Based on an interpretation request to modify Section 6.3.1 regarding normalization.

Suggestions for improvement of this Standard are welcome. Comments should be sent to Chair, Joint Committee on BIFMA e3 Furniture Sustainability, c/o NSF International, Standards Department, P. O. Box 130140, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48113-0140, USA.

Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association (BIFMA)

Established in 1973, the Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association (BIFMA) International's mission is to lead, advocate, inform and develop standards for the North American office and institutional furniture industry. BIFMA serves businesses that are primarily engaged in design, development, marketing and fulfillment of office and institutional furniture products.

BIFMA is a not-for-profit organization that provides an effective forum for Members to cooperate and collaborate on appropriate industry issues. We develop voluntary product and industry standards that support safe, healthy and sustainable environments; publish key industry statistics; advocate for legislation and government regulation that have a direct impact on the health of the industry; and facilitate meaningful dialog and education to support our core services and the industry we serve.

NSF International

NSF International has been testing and certifying products for safety, health, and the environment for more than 65 years (www.nsf.org). As an independent, not-for-profit organization, NSF's mission is to protect public health and the environment through standards development, inspection, testing, and certification for the food, water, build/construction, retail, chemical, and health science industries. NSF Sustainability draws upon this expertise in standards development, product assurance and certification, advisory services and quality systems management to help companies green their products, operations, systems and supply chains.

¹ The information contained in this Foreword is not part of this American National Standard (ANS) and has not been processed in accordance with ANSI's requirements for an ANS. Therefore, this Foreword may contain material that has not been subjected to public review or a consensus process. In addition, it does not contain requirements necessary for conformance to the Standard.

ANSI/BIFMA e3 Furniture Sustainability Standard

1 General

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this voluntary Standard is to provide measurable market-based definitions of progressively more sustainable furniture by establishing performance criteria that address environmental and social aspects throughout the supply chain.

1.2 Scope

This Standard provides a pathway towards sustainability by establishing measurable criteria for multiple levels of achievement and/or performance.

This Standard is applicable to all business and institutional furniture; this includes but is not limited to moveable walls, systems furniture, desking systems, casegoods, tables, seating, and accessories. The Standard is also applicable to materials and components manufactured by suppliers to furniture manufacturers.

This Standard is applicable to business and institutional furniture manufactured in one facility or multiple facilities, one country or multiple countries. It addresses product-based characteristics in the general areas of materials, use of energy, human and ecosystem health, and social responsibility impacts.