Questions and answers from the Furniture Industry Summit.

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During our Furniture Industry Summit we captured all questions from the audience. Please refer to this Q&A document for reading all answers from our speakers. If you have additional questions, please contact UL today!

Q: What are the costs for the Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturer's Association (BIFMA) Compliant Program?

A: The fee structure for the Compliant Program is correlated to your BIFMA member dues schedule that identifies your Compliant Program fee and the number of products you will list which will identify your listing fee. The cost ranges from $1,300 to $10,000 annually based upon the size of your organization and number of products. Nonmembers of BIFMA have their own unique fee structure. For your specific fee structure, UL recommends you contact BIFMA.

Q: Will BIFMA Compliant Program include periodic factory audits?

A: No, the BIFMA Compliant Program will not require factory audits.

Q: Will BIFMA Compliant Program accept UL test data that already exists?

A: The BIFMA Compliant Program requires that testing is performed by an ISO/IEC 17025 accredited laboratory that includes the applicable ANSI/BIFMA standard(s) in its scope of accreditation along with the Accreditation Body being part of ILAC/MRA.

Laboratory reports shall be less than 3 years old and to the most recent version of the standard(s).

Q: It was mentioned that the most recent adopted proposals to the UL 962 Standard for Household and Commercial Furnishings, or UL 1286, the Standard for Office Furnishings, were/are not subject to a file review. Where can we find out about whether any given proposal is subject to a file review?

A: Currently, there are no file reviews ongoing within the furniture areas. UL has made the engineering and technical decision, that for these updates, we will not require a file review in order to have the file updated.

Q: What type of information will be available in the BIFMA registry?

A: The BIFMA Compliant registry will include an image of the product, the type of product (Product Category) and the subcategory for how the product is defined.

Q: For future products that we currently would place in our UL 962 file, will we be opening a new UL 2999 file?

A: No, you won't be opening a new file. The Guide Information pages are being updated to also refer to UL 2999, the Standard for Individual Commercial Office Furnishings. Then when new products or current products are evaluated to UL 2999, the companies' Listing page will be updated to reference that the product has been evaluated to UL 2999.

Q: How are dividers like acrylic dividers/toppers/additions viewed from a UL or BIFMA standard standpoint? Are they considered accessories and the manufacturer tests per their internal needs taking into account the obvious stability and disengagement or is more formal testing required?

A: From the UL Standards standpoint, the dividers would be considered accessories like any other options that are provided for use with the furniture, such as screens, storage, etc. The accessories need to be evaluated with the product to make sure the combination complies with the requirements.

Q: How do sales of ISO compare to BIFMA Chair Measurement Device (CMD)?

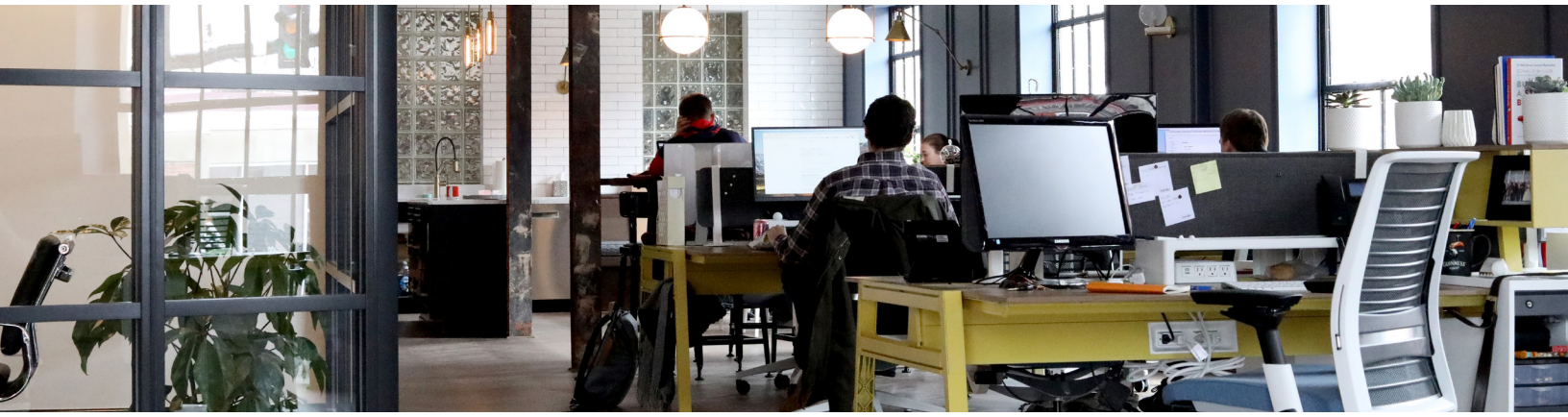
A: UL expects the industry to go more and more to the direction of the recent ISO 24496 CMD.

Q: Currently, how long does it take to make the ISO CMD?

A: It takes us approximately 12 weeks to manufacture an ISO 24496 CMD; however we do have a few in stock ready for immediate delivery.

Q: Why were pods ruled to be certified under UL 962, rather than UL 1286, even though it seems that products certified under UL 1286 seem to be similar to pods, e.g., cubicles? It looks like some pod manufacturers have certified their pods against UL 1286 through another Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL).

A: When UL first started seeing pod type products, we saw some intended for the office and some that were not. We certified the products in both areas. We wrote a Certification Requirement Decision (CRD) to cover both types. A CRD was needed because neither UL 962 Standard for Household and Commercial Furnishings or UL 1286 Standard for Office Furnishings have requirements that adequately covered the potential safety hazards with pods. Since these innovative products are new, UL felt it was best to cover them in one area to help ensure the requirements are consistent, and it was easier to find certified products. We choose UL 962 because the requirements cover a broader range of products. For instance, we've seen products for discussions with a remote doctor and a private sleep/work area for airports. Also, UL 962 is better suited to



cover products that have a number of different electrical components installed and allows for more modularity in the intended use, which is a key value of the pods in their ability to be moved around. The CRD requirements with some minor changes have been approved by the Standards Technical Panel, and we anticipate that these requirements will be published in UL 962 in four to six weeks.

Q: Do pods have to tie into a sprinkler system?

A: For booths less than 16 square feet and less than 4 feet in any direction, fire suppression is not required by UL 962 and the building codes. For pods that are larger than booths, fire suppression is required. This could be achieved by either having a means to attach it to the building fire suppression system or by including one in the pod. Always check with local authorities for their municipalities regulations.

Q: Can you talk about the round robin tests going on in Europe?

A: A round robin test has been organized in accordance to EN 1335-1 in Europe to evaluate the measurement of office chairs. Collected data have been circulated among standardization experts.

Q: How is IEC/EN 60335-2-116 handling pinch points? UL Standards differentiate user locations (household versus commercial) and permit some more hazards in commercial spaces. It seems like this might be a challenge for some office desks in Europe if adopted as-is.

A: The information is not available at this time.

Q: If the standards are voluntary in Europe, how can customers be assured that the testing is being performed and performed correctly.

A: Customers need to trust the service provider they work with. A great way to build that trust is to check or ask what type of accreditations the service provider has. Also, accreditations will call out the specific test methods that are covered in the scope of the accreditation.

Q: Do most or all of EU countries accept EN furniture standards?

A: All countries in Europe accept EN standards. A full list of the countries accepting EN standards can be found at the following link: https://bit.ly/35AzUN4

Q: How frequently are European machinery directives and laws updated and able to move toward harmonization (with U.S. and other countries)?

A: In the U.S., under the ANSI standards process, we are encouraged to update standards approximately every five years or as needed. For example, BIFMA usually works on a five-year cycle, while the UL Standards are updated as needed. In Europe, the situation is similar: every five years, it is required to the member states if the standard shall be confirmed, revised or withdrawn. If before the five-year period, a strong need for a revision arises, this can be managed with amendments to the standard.

Q: How often do EU Directives get updated?

A: For EU legislation, there is no defined time-frame for the revision. But the approach in Europe is that the law shall define just the essential requirements and leave the test methods and technical requirements to the standards issued by European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC) (after receiving confirmation that they adequately cover the essential requirements and published in the list of Harmonized standard to the specific directive). This allows us to adapt to the market and technology changes by revising the standard but leaving the laws unchanged.

Q: Is there an estimated timeline when we will achieve a global standard?

A: The timeline for harmonization is difficult to predict as there needs to be demand from industry stakeholders to take on this task. If a given industry is selling products in a single region, the demand is not very high. When products begin to be marketed to multiple regions, we have seen an industry become motivated to harmonize. UL supports harmonization and works to make global market access as easy as possible.

Q: What about partition and fire protection? Also think about HVAC in small spaces.

A: UL has flammability requirements for partitions within UL 962 Standard for Household and Commercial Furnishings and UL 970 Standard for Retail Fixtures and Merchandise Displays.

Q: What about the chemical composition of these dividers. Any UL or BIFMA program for that?

A: No standard addresses that. We recommend the industry meets California Proposition 65 or other chemicals of concern requirements and any indoor air quality requirements to help reduce chemical emissions, which is what GREENGUARD certification does.

Q: An increasing amount of companies have started to mix bio materials with recycles plastic to make furniture. What is your opinion on this?

A: These concepts are confusing and regularly misunderstood by consumers in the marketplace, which poses risks of greenwashing. These materials and claims are covered by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Green Guides and ISO 14021 guidance for single-attribute claims. Technically, some bioplastics may be recycled and, therefore, derived from recycled sources, but much is not. We advocate for full transparency of claims and distinguishing between biobased or renewable material claims versus recycled content claims. Generally speaking, biobased materials would fall into the FTC Green Guide guidance on renewable material claims. The guidance provided by the U.S. FTC is covered in § 260.16: https://bit.ly/36YLP6Q

Q: Can you elaborate how UL (UL 3600) can help manage sustainability and will it be per individual furniture or is it a broad encompassing program?

A: UL 3600, UL LLC Outline of Investigation for Measuring and Reporting Circular Economy Aspects of Products, Sites and Organizations, is designed to help measure the circularity of products and sites to roll up to company level circularity measurement. The outline is based on the calculation of material flows. The component parts can be broken up and used separately. Our experts recommend you would start with the product level aspect to measure circularity of retail display fixtures, which is based on an assessment of material inputs (like recycled content) and design (like designing for disassembly, designing for reuse, designing for recycling) to measure the circularity of the display furniture itself. This certification may be applied to a specific product family or more systematically, depending on the market-facing claim desired.

Q: In regards to the carbon footprint, does Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) place a higher value on facility based tracking and reduction or product specific based tracking?

A: SASB accounting metrics covering Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and climate-related issues are presently focused on scope 1 and 2 emission categories covering emissions from operations and purchased electricity versus scope 3, which covers supply chain and associated product-level impacts. However, with investor interest in the Task Force on Climate Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) and pressure to address science-based targets (SBTs), alongside the growing understanding that embodied carbon in the product is increasingly important to address climate-related risks, we anticipate that the SASB standards will evolve to address product-related carbon impact in time.

Q: If a company only assembles furniture from components and the manufacturer of the components with substances of very high concern is not going to register on Substances of Concern in articles as such or in complex objects (SCIP) database as "they" do no sell in the EU, what the company requirements?

A: Whoever places the products on the EU market are responsible for SCIP registration.

Q: Does this only affect selling in EU? If a company gets parts from Europe to sell assembled in the U.S., does this apply?

A: Correct, the regulation only applies to articles placed on the EU market.

Q: Could we use the information from an European manufacturer in BIFMA level compliance?

A: Yes, manufacturers can supply this information during their BIFMA level evaluation.

Q: How does a manufacturer begin phase 1 for SCIP? What sort of information will they need to have available for review and scoping?

A: Phase I includes two-hour web education, engineering assessment for a product and component templates. A detailed quote can be provided upon request.

Q: Are there any fees associated with maintaining the products we have registered?

A: There are no fees associated with maintaining the registered products from European Chemicals Agency (ECHA).

If you have any questions on face mask compliance or testing, please contact UL today.

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