

UL 2999 Individual Commercial Office Furnishings Standard Reference Guide



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UL Standards have served as the benchmark for the office furniture industry for more than 40 years. Office furniture has evolved with innovations such as height adjustable tables, benching systems and video conferencing centers, to name a few. To help ensure UL Standards meet the needs of a changing industry, UL worked with standards technical panels, industry stakeholders and safety experts to develop UL 2999, the Standard for Individual Commercial Office Furnishings. Referencing the requirements of UL 1286, the Standard for Office Furnishings, and UL 962, the Standard for Household and Commercial Furnishings, UL 2999 is designed to help ensure the safety and performance of evolving commercial office furnishings.

What is the scope of UL 2999?

UL 2999 applies to individual commercial office furnishings rated 600 V AC or less. The products are used in accordance with the National Electrical Code, ANSI/NFPA 70. They are intended for dry locations only. These furnishings include both electrified and nonelectrified and may include, but are not limited to motor-operated tables and desks tables and desks (non-motor-operated), storage cabinets, seating, bench systems, and motorized adjustable carts and stands for audio/ video equipment.

How will this Standard impact your existing UL files and new products?

You will not have to change your UL file as a result of the new Standard and no cost is required for the introduction to this new Standard. As long as no construction modifications are made to existing UL Certified products, those products will continue to be Certified under the Standard and edition originally used for investigation. As you update your file, UL will transition the products to the most current set of requirements, UL 2999. New products submitted will be evaluated to UL 2999.

What are the key updates to the standard?

Because UL 2999 originated from the UL 962 and UL 1286 Standards, it contains many of the same proven requirements. Major additions are included in Section 27, Furniture Flammability. Section 27.2 of the Standard requires upholstered seating to comply with Cal TB 117-2013 instead of Cal TB 133. Sections 32 through 35 address the loading requirements of furniture, which are now aligned with the requirements outlined in the applicable Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturers (BIFMA) standard.



Quick look: Overview of Standards

UL 962	UL 1286	UL 2999
Published 1996, updated 2021	Published 1984, updated 2018	Published May 2020
Covers bookcases, curio cabinets, desks, tables, chairs, power distribution and beds	Covers panels (cubicle) systems along with the accessories that attach to them, such as work surfaces, storage compartments, and electrical systems	Covers all types of individual commercial office furnishings
Mechanical requirements within UL 962 are unique to this Standard based upon the product type	In 2009, the UL 1286 Standards Technical Panel added requirements for mechanical testing of individual office furnishings	The mechanical tests in UL 2999 reference the industry accepted BIFMA standards for these types of products
Applies to some residential and some commercial furnishings, excluding individual office furnishings	Applies to commercial office furnishings systems	Applies exclusively to individual commercial office furniture products

Points to consider

UL 2999 contains some new requirements that exceed those of UL 962 and UL 1286. To help you better prepare to transition to the new Standard, below is an overview of the most common areas where additional testing, information or evaluation may be required.

CATEGORY	DETAILS
User Guide/Installation Instructions/Markings	This area of a safety evaluation is the most common noncompliance. The Standard explicitly outlines what an organization must do to comply with these requirements for user guides and instructions.
Required Plastic Ratings for Electrical Enclosures	As plastics are being selected in the design phase of product development, the specific plastic requirements should be carefully considered for the intended use.
Flammability Requirements	Any combustible component in excess of 10 square feet will be subject to a flammability test. The intent of this test is to help ensure the furniture will not exacerbate or accelerate a structure fire. This test measures the flame spread index and smoke developed index related to the combustible material. This test is performed on the combination of materials (core, adhesives, laminates, etc.), so note that any changes in the product construction will prompt retesting.
Locked Rotor Testing and Safety Challenges	For motorized products, the locked rotor test is intended to simulate the conditions of a user trying to actuate the product while something is preventing the product from moving. In many cases, manufacturers of the component may rely on software or electronics as a means to protect the product. If software or electronics is used in this manner, UL 2999 requires that the software or electronics be evaluated for reliability as a functional safety circuit.
Components	Recognized components cannot be fully evaluated unless they are in the end use product. While some components may have been evaluated to a specific standard, it is unlikely that they have been evaluated as a part of a furnishing. Recognized components are now tested as a part of the end product.
Personal Injury Points	Height adjustable tables and other motorized furnishings may have personal injury areas. While UL 2999 allows these if the product complies with other requirements, it's important to consider all of the accessories that may be used, such as modesty panels or screens to help ensure that all possible risk of injury points are identified.
Accessories	To help ensure that the complete furniture unit meets the standard requirements, all accessories must be evaluated with the furnishing. Even accessories that may not affect the testing should be included for testing to help ensure it does not negatively impact the safety of the product.

[Contact us today](#) to discuss how UL 2999 impacts your products and organization. We will schedule time to review with you and create a tailored plan.



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