

FAQ ON BIFMA

Frequently Asked Questions by Furniture Industry on BIFMA Certification

1. What is BIFMA?

Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association (BIFMA) is a not-for-profit organization in US.

2. What is BIFMA membership?

BIFMA offers four types of memberships. For entities outside US, International Membership is offered, on payment of necessary annual fees. For details use the following link; <http://www.bifma.org/info/categories.html>

3. Who can get BIFMA membership?

Any Indian furniture or furniture component manufacturer or trading business in International furniture can get 'BIFMA International membership'.

4. What are BIFMA Standards?

BIFMA develops voluntary product and industry standards according to guidelines established by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

5. What is BIFMA certification?

BIFMA certification is for a furniture product. Any furniture product or component can be certified for a suitable BIFMA standard.

6. What are BIFMA Safety & Performance Standards for furniture products?

These standards define specific tests, laboratory equipment to be used, the conditions of test, and the minimum acceptance levels to be used in evaluating furniture products.

7. Which products are covered under BIFMA Safety & Performance Standards?

At present the published standards cover products viz; Office Chairs, Seating systems, Desk Products, Panels Systems, Storage Units, Small Office/Home Office etc.

8. Does it require in-house lab for testing or testing through third party is valid?

Any test is acceptable provided the BIFMA test procedures as per various standards are followed.

9. What is BIFMA Quality System Standard?

BIFMA Quality System Standard v9.3 is a voluntary minimum quality system standard utilized within the Office Furniture Industry. This document is based on the criteria defined by ISO-9001, incorporated into the ISO-1994 standard format of 20 elements.

10. What is Low Emitting Furniture?

It is a test for VOC emissions from a furniture product as per standards (BIFMA M7.1-20011 and BIFMA X7.1-20011).

11. What is BIFMA Ergonomic Requirements Standard?

BIFMA G1-2013, "Ergonomics Guideline for Furniture used in Office Work Spaces Designed for Computer Use". This document uses the principles of ISO 9241 Part 5 (1998) and other relevant publications. The guideline emphasizes the concept of "Fit" as defined by ISO.

12. What is BIFMA Furniture Sustainability Standard?

ANSI/BIFMA e3-2014 Furniture Sustainability Standard addresses all three aspects of sustainability (environmental, economic and social) and includes criteria for evaluating human & ecosystem health, energy, natural resource and corporate social responsibility impacts.

13. Who can guide in BIFMA standard certifications?

Aim Enviro provides comprehensive consultancy including training & guidance for compliance to BIFMA standards. For list of consultants on BIFMA web site use link; <http://levelcertified.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/2015-01-05-Consultants-List1.pdf>

14. What is the validity period for BIFMA certification?

BIFMA Quality System Standard v9.3 and ANSI/BIFMA e3-2014 Furniture Sustainability Standard need recertification after 3 years or in case of changes in the product/ process. Whereas Safety & Performance Standards and Low Emitting Furniture are one time tests on a representative sample.

15. Which LOGO can be used for the certified furniture product?

BIFMA logo can not be used (similar to ISO certification, where ISO logo can not be used). However, usually the certification agency permits the use its Logo.