



# FURNISHINGS FOCUS

Summer • 2013

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## Furniture is Evolving. So Are UL's Standards.

**By Eugene Wirth / Principal Engineer**

Furniture no longer serves a single purpose—it is now tasked to do more than ever before. While previously furniture was a single serve object, items such as couches and tables now include electrical features for our multi-media, multi-tasking lives. Furniture users are now able to connect all of their electronic equipment to their furnishings for power. The evolution of furnishings encompasses innovative features such as heated or cooled beverage holders, heated and cooled beds and chairs, massage functions, and LED lighting for function and aesthetics.

The retail store environment is also evolving. Where once a display case or shelf was a mere platform to display a product, in some cases it now powers the product for a potential customer to explore its features. Product displays also incorporate LED lighting and signs to attract attention.

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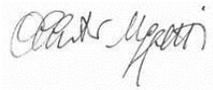


## A Letter from Alberto Uggetti

Welcome to the new furniture industry of UL, and to the first issue of *Furnishings Focus*, our newsletter specifically created for the furniture, furnishings and sleep products market. UL is undergoing exciting changes to better serve our customers. The creation of a furniture industry team allows us to better align our services, and offer customers one point of contact for all of their testing, inspection and certification needs.

Our goal is to be your indispensable partner in the global furniture industry by engaging with you to find the best, most efficient solutions for your business and your needs. I look forward to meeting you and working with you.

In our inaugural issue of this newsletter, you will find information about regulatory and market updates that affect the furniture industry, updates to UL furniture Standards, as well as some exciting changes UL is making to its Marks. We hope you will find the information useful, and invite you to reach out to us with any questions you may have.



Alberto Uggetti

Vice President and General Manager  
UL Furniture Division

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**SIGN UP TO RECEIVE THE  
NEWSLETTER BY EMAILING US  
AT [FURNITURENA@UL.COM](mailto:FURNITURENA@UL.COM)**

# Innovation in Commercial Displays Pose Testing and Certification Challenges

**By Bruce Bohren** / Senior Staff Engineer

As the U.S. market improves and retail numbers continue to climb, so will the demand for commercial displays to upgrade existing stores and outfit new stores. Retailers seek innovative fixtures, which can pose potential challenges for the manufacturing and certification process. Frequently, retailers specify which components should be used inside

fluorescent lighting, which operated at low temperatures and the ballasts all had to comply with the same requirements – tested for at least a 40°C ambient, operate below 90°C, and had thermal protection.

The latest LEDs provide more light and design options than earlier designs, but they typically generate more heat than fluorescent lighting. Consequently,

they may operate at a higher temperature, which leads to a potential for a burn hazard and even a fire hazard. The concern of a fire hazard is related to the power supply designs of cabinets with LEDs. While ballasts are intended for use in closed spaces, the Listed power supplies are intended for use out in the open. When placed in a cabinet these could overheat. Since power supplies can be tested under power supply, signs,

lighting, or IT standards, they are not as interchangeable as ballasts. And, multiple power supplies can be used in the same cabinet depending on how many lights are being used and what other equipment may be inside the cabinet, which can

contribute to a lot of heat within a single commercial display.

Since there are no lighting categories specifically for use in commercial displays, and the categories that cover cabinet lights presume the power supply is in the open, it can be difficult to determine the appropriate types of lights for cabinet displays. Additionally, while LEDs offer more variety than fluorescent lighting, they also offer more challenges for the evaluation process.

How do you solve this challenge? UL has a custom solution for manufacturers looking to test this equipment for commercial displays. UL will build wooden enclosures to the smallest dimensions that will likely be used, and test both the lights and power supplies in the enclosures. Once it is known that the lighting and power supply will safely perform in a smaller enclosure, the equipment can be used in larger displays. Contact UL today for more information about this service.

For more information, contact Bruce Bohren at [bruce.g.bohren@ul.com](mailto:bruce.g.bohren@ul.com) or (847) 664-2017. ■



the display; other times it's the retailer's designer who indicates how a display should look.

For example, one of the latest trends in commercial displays is to incorporate LED lighting. Originally, many displays used

## Furniture is Evolving ... continued

These innovations bring with them new, and sometimes unique, safety concerns, such as shock and electrical hazards. UL is the author of several safety Standards for residential and commercial furniture and display products. UL Standards to address the safety of these products are also growing and changing along with the products.

All of our UL Standards for furniture and furnishings are currently under revision and we encourage manufacturers to be part of the process. Are you interested in being actively involved in the standards development process? Or would you like to know what the revised requirements will be? Sign up for updates at:

<http://www.ul.com/global/eng/pages/solutions/standards/developstandards/>

You can expect to see new versions of the following Standards in the coming months:

**UL 65** – Wired Cabinets (Showcases): A lighted store display case or shelving unit.

**UL 962** – Household and Commercial Furnishings: Complex store displays, beds, chairs, decorative illuminated furniture, motorized furniture, training room tables and much more.

**UL 1286** – Office Furnishings: Office cubicles, tables and storage systems.

**UL 1647** – Motor-Operated Massage and Exercise Machines: Massage Chairs.

**UL 1678** – TV and Video Equipment Carts and Stands.

**UL 2442** – Brackets for mounting TV and Video Displays to a building structure.

*This article is for general information purposes only and is not meant to convey legal or other professional advice. ■*



Obtain a current version of a UL Standard by registering at: <http://www.comm-2000.com>.



# Mattress Manufacturers Settle VOC Claims

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) recently settled claims with three mattress manufacturers who were charged with making unsubstantiated claims that their products were volatile organic compound (VOC) free, formaldehyde free, contained no VOCs, or were odor-free. The manufacturers have agreed to stop making claims until they have the data to support them. Using such claims without proper scientific back-up is risky for manufacturers, and can put a brand's reputation at risk.

Manufacturers can avoid these charges by conducting product emissions testing with a trusted third-party organization, which provides un-biased, scientific data about their products. UL is a global leader in chemical emissions testing of products, and can provide third-party, science-backed chemical emissions data, along with test reports. UL tests products in state-of-the-art stainless steel environmental chambers, which detect more than 10,000 VOCs, including formaldehyde.

UL is also the exclusive provider of the GREENGUARD Certification program, which tests and certifies that products are low-emitting, providing proof for low VOC claims. Manufacturers who complete GREENGUARD Certification can also use the GREENGUARD Certification Mark, which demonstrates their accomplishment and contains qualifying language to provide greater clarity to the marketplace. That way, manufacturers can feel confident in their product claims. ■

For more information about chemical emissions testing and the GREENGUARD Certification program, please contact Derek Marsaa at [derek.marsaa@ul.com](mailto:derek.marsaa@ul.com) or (678) 431-7448.



# UL News

## The World's Most Trusted Mark - Enhanced

The UL Mark is the single most accepted Certification Mark in the United States, appearing on 22 billion products annually. The world's most trusted Certification Mark has evolved. See the enhanced UL Certification Mark designs and learn more about the enhancements at [www.ul.com/marks](http://www.ul.com/marks).

UL Environment Marks launched in April of this year, and now contain qualifying language to enhance the Marks and provide greater clarity to the marketplace. To view the Marks and learn more, visit [ul.com/newmarks](http://ul.com/newmarks). ■



## UL Dashboard



UL's Dashboard is a suite of tools and functionality created to help you be more efficient and informed. The dashboard links to UL's Library of journals, white papers and research, to the Marks Hub, to the Catalog of Standards and Service Finder, so customers can find what they are looking for all in one spot on [ul.com](http://ul.com). ■

# Regulatory Updates

## Connecticut Senate and Rhode Island pass mattress recycling bills

In May, the Connecticut Senate passed a mattress recycling bill, which creates the nation's first mattress recycling law of its kind. Supported by the International Sleep Products Association (ISPA), the bill authorizes an industry-led non-profit organization to create and run a mattress recycling council that has the authority to set and collect a consumer fee to fund recycling operations. In July, Rhode Island became the second state to pass a statewide program for recycling discarded mattresses and is similar to Connecticut's law.

ISPA is currently working on similar legislation in other states and said it will lobby for programs that reduce the impact of illegally dumped mattresses, harness existing infrastructure for transporting used mattresses to recyclers, create jobs, and minimize costs to both government and consumers. ISPA also proposes to authorize an industry-led non-profit organization to create and run a mattress recycling council that has the authority to set and collect a consumer fee to fund recycling operations.

## European Standards Update

In early May, the Fédération Européenne du Mobilier de Bureau (FEMB) defined the final draft of a new European standard on "Sustainability requirements for office and non-domestic furniture for indoor use." UL has been actively involved in the standard development and is ready to support manufacturers willing to join the pilot phase. For more information about FEMB sustainability scheme, please contact Roberta Zaffaroni at [roberta.zaffaroni@ul.com](mailto:roberta.zaffaroni@ul.com) or +39.3452462496.

## EN Standards published in 2013

EN 16121:2013 - Non-domestic storage furniture - Requirements for safety, strength, durability and stability

EN 16139:2013 - Furniture - Strength, durability and safety - Requirements for non-domestic seating

EN 16139:2013/AC:2013 - Furniture - Strength, durability and safety - Requirements for non-domestic seating

EN 1728:2012/AC:2013 - Furniture - Seating - Test methods for the determination of strength and durability

## U.S. Standards Update

Recently Updated:

ANSI/BIFMA x5.4- 2012 Lounge and Public Seating Tests have been updated and replaced ANSI/BIFMA x5.4-2005 Lounge Seating Tests. ■



## Come See Us

### Upcoming Tradeshows/Events

Kind + Jugend  
Sept. 19-22, Cologne, Germany  
Speaking

ABC Expo  
Oct. 15-18, Las Vegas  
Exhibiting Booth #7222

NeoCon East  
Oct. 16-17, Baltimore  
Speaking

Greenbuild  
Nov. 20-22, Philadelphia  
Exhibiting Booth #2343

Furniture Today Leadership Conference  
Dec. 3-5, Naples, Fla.  
Exhibiting

### UL Environment Webinars

#### Your Products and LEED: Understanding the New LEED v4 Rating System for Furniture

September 10, 2013 at 11:00 am EDT

LEED v4 has been approved and will be released in November 2013—is your company ready? UL Environment has the expertise to help you and your organization understand how to maximize the amount of points for which your building can qualify, as well as multiple tools to help you put your plan into practice. During our webinar, we'll discuss how the changes to the LEED rating systems and criteria impact you and the marketplace, and we will answer your most pressing questions. This webinar is specifically tailored to your industry's specific needs, so you can be armed with the most relevant and practical information.

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