Furnishings Focus

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UL News

Acquisition of Advanced Furniture Testing Expands UL's Furniture Capabilities

UL has acquired leading furniture testing provider Advanced Furniture Testing to expand our furniture testing capabilities in the heart of the United States office furniture industry. With two locations in Holland, Michigan and Jasper, Indiana, the business, now known as Advanced Furniture Testing, a UL Company, will continue to deliver expertise in BIFMA and performance testing for office, household and institutional furniture, and cabinetry.

Doug Woodard, founder of Advanced Furniture Testing, and the rest of the team will continue to deliver expertise in performance and durability testing, including BIFMA and KCMA testing, as well as testing equipment and fixtures. You can reach Doug and his team at furnituretest@ul.com, or by visiting furnituretest.com. ■

Carlos Correia Appointed UL's Supply Chain & Sustainability President

Carlos Correia has been appointed UL's new President of Supply Chain & Sustainability. Carlos has more than 12 years of experience with UL, including leadership positions in the Global High-Tech business, based in Japan, as well as Global Consumer Products and Consumer & Industrial businesses, based in Europe and Latin America. Prior to joining UL, he served as the Head of Marketing and Information Services for the European Organization for Testing and Certification, as well as the Head of Quality & Industry Consulting Practice at Silicon Telecom Consultants. He looks forward to meeting UL's furniture customers. ■

Standards Updates

BIFMA STANDARDS CORNER

By Doug Woodard, North American Leader

The General Purpose Office Chairs Standard x5.1 (BIFMA's flagship standard) is on-going. The committee has discussed producing a BIFMA white-paper or annex that will discuss Fore-Aft testing for chairs. Fore-Aft testing is a type of test that many larger companies already do, and has been in European testing standards for many years. BIFMA would like to "ease" the test into the standard by just making people aware of it for now. Eventually, the test may be included in the X5.1 standard to harmonize with other standards used worldwide.

The General Purpose Large Occupant Office Chairs Standard X5.11 has been released and is now available for purchase.

The BIFMA Health Care Furniture Design – The Guidelines for Cleanability Standard (BIFMA HCF 8.1-2014) were released October 6, 2014. This standard is a "non-ANSI" BIFMA guideline pertaining to the unique way that furniture installed in healthcare environments needs to have a certain minimum resistance to degradation when exposed to typical cleaning protocols. The tests for resistance of furniture to cleaners are based upon typical cleaning of one time per day and a furniture life of 7 years.

The guideline outlines the purpose, test set up and procedure, and the acceptance levels for resistance of furniture surfaces and coated fabrics to Liquid Cleaners and germicides, UVC Light, and Steam Exposure. The guideline also contains design considerations for cleanability for furniture used in Health Care Settings.

EUROPEAN STANDARDS CORNER (CEN)

By Matteo Longoni, Staff Engineer

- The revision of the standard EN 15372 "Furniture - Strength, durability and safety - Requirements for non-domestic tables" will be published in Spring 2015.
- The revision of EN 1729 "Furniture - Chairs and tables for educational institutions" is under final approval stage, and should be published within Summer 2015.
- The revision of EN 527-2 "Office furniture - Work tables - Part 2: Strength, durability and safety requirements" is close to its completion and should be published in mid-2015.
- The revision of EN 597 "Furniture - Assessment of the ignitability of mattresses and upholstered bed bases" "Part 1: Ignition source smoldering cigarette" and "Part 2: Ignition source: match flame equivalent" will be published mid-2015.
- For outdoor furniture, the revision of EN 581-1 "Outdoor furniture - Seating and tables for camping, domestic and contract use - Part 1: General safety requirements" will likely be published next summer and the revisions of EN 581-2 "Outdoor furniture - Seating and tables for camping, domestic and contract use - Part 2: Safety, strength and durability requirements for seating" and EN 581-3 "Outdoor furniture - Seating and tables for camping, domestic and contract use - Part 3: Safety, strength and durability requirements for table" will follow shortly.
- The new version of EN 14749 "Furniture - Domestic and kitchen storage units and kitchen-worktops - Safety requirements and test methods" is currently in the approvals process and will likely be published in Autumn 2015
- During 2015 the revision of EN 1022 "Domestic furniture - Seating - Determination of stability" will be sent for public comments
- The revision of the standard EN 1130 "Furniture, Cribs and Cradles for Domestic Use: Safety Requirements", will cover bedside sleepers and will be released for public comment in mid-2015, but will not be published before 2016.
- The standard for "Children's and Nursery Furniture - Mattresses for Cots - Requirements and Test Methods" has been drafted and will be sent for public comment soon. It could be published by mid-2016. The suffocation requirement has been addressed by a test that evaluates if the mattress it so soft the child's head may sink into it to such an extent that respiration is impaired.
- CEN is working also on a new standard for children's chairs, which will be sent for comment at the end of 2015.

UL Standards Corner

By Bruce Bohren, Primary Designated Engineer

Standards information link: http://www.ul.com/global/eng/pages/solutions/standards/.

Register for "What's New" to receive e-mails twice a month indicating the new published UL Standards, Outlines, and Proposals: http://www.ul.com/global/eng/pages/solutions/standards/accessstandards/whatsnew/register/

UL 962 – Household and Commercial Furnishings

The 4th edition of UL 962 was published on November 7, 2014.

This 4th Edition of the Standard for Safety for Household and Commercial Furnishings, UL 962, includes the following major changes: (a) Separation of some product types such as massage tables and chairs and powered table systems into new supplements as these products have requirements unique to their product type; and (b) Combination of household and commercial requirements into the main body of the standard to improve readability. (c) The requirements for cords (Sec. 9.2, .4, .5, & .6), glass sheets (Sec. 10.9), receptacles used in seating or near liquids, (Sec. 24) were all updated. (d) There are changes for Interconnection of Furnishings (Sec. 26), Extendable Elements (Sec. 27), and Parts subjected to pressure (Sec. 29). (e) The requirements for flammability have all been consolidated into Sec. 31 and an alternate for the UL 723 test have been added. (f) Only a few tests were updated, which include the Flat Panel Monitor loads (Sec. 38), a new Cycle Test (Sec. 43), and new tests for pressure (Sec. 44).

The 4th edition replaces the 3rd edition. As of January 1, 2016, the 3rd edition of UL 962 will be withdrawn. During this time, the customer may choose to use the 3rd or 4th Editions.

UL 2040 – Folding Rollaway Tables

The proposed 2nd edition went out for ballot on July 11, 2014 with a due date of August 25, 2014. No substantive technical revisions to the standard are being proposed. This new edition includes editorial revisions only. The comments and responses were recirculated on December 9, 2014 with a due date of December 23, 2014.

UL 1286 – Office Furnishings

Four proposals went out for ballot on March 28, 2014. The proposals related to: (1) Additional Requirement for Vertically Adjustable Surfaces, (2) Revisions to Align with the New Edition of BIFMA X5.9, Storage Units, (3) Additional Requirements for a New Supplement Covering Office Furnishings Attached to the Building Structure, and (4) Revisions to Align with the New Edition of BIFMA X5.5, Desk and Table Products. A revised proposal went out for recirculation on June 27, 2014. The revisions were published on October 2, 2014.

Feature Articles

New California Flammability and Labeling Laws Went into Effect January 1, 2015

California has two laws affecting furniture that will take effect January 1, 2015. The first is the updated TB 117-2013 standard, effective on January 1, 2014 with full compliance required by January 1, 2015, which has significant changes in the flammability testing requirements for upholstered furniture and specifies revised test methods and labeling requirements.

Learn more about the new law and test procedures of TB 117-2013 by listening to this webinar, and downloading this article.

In addition, the state enacted new furniture labeling requirements into law. Beginning January1, 2015, companies that sell furniture in the state of California are required to include a label that discloses if upholstered furniture products contain flame retardants. Companies will be required to maintain documentation about the fire retardant content of their products in the event that California requests it. Only products manufactured after January 1, 2015 will require the label, and mattresses are not required to be labeled. The Bureau of Electronic & Appliance Repair, Home Furnishings & Thermal Insulation (BEARHFTI) has prepared a Question & Answer document to address commonly asked questions about the bill. Click here to see the document.

Third-party testing can help manufacturers determine the content of their products. Email us at furniturena@ul.com to learn more about testing options.

Breaking News: LEED 2009 Extended Until October 2016

The USGBC recently extended the deadline to file projects under LEED 2009 until **October 2016,** providing an additional 16 months for buildings to be registered under the previous rating system. This a quick note to let you know how this will affect your products' potential LEED value:

- GREENGUARD Certification continues to be the best way to achieve full credit for LEED 2009 IEQ credits for furniture.
- During the next 2 years until full implementation of LEED v4, projects can be registered under both rating systems, so manufacturers whose products earn points under both LEED 2009 and LEED v4 will have an advantage with green builders and specifiers.
- LEED v4 has lower formaldehyde requirements for furniture and UL can help manufacturers determine if their products can meet the lower emission levels so products will be optimized for both rating systems.

Looking for Additional LEED Points?

LEED v4 offers **new ways** for furniture to earn additional points. UL can help you determine which LEED credits products can achieve through Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs), BIFMA level certification, and chemical disclosure. Contact us today to find out how your products can obtain maximum credits under LEED v4,

UL Releases 4th Edition of UL 962 and Launches Continuous Certification Process

The 4th edition of UL 962: The Standard for Safety for Household and Commercial Furnishings has been released with an effective date of January 1, 2016. Thanks to UL's new Continuous Certification Process, products certified to the 3rd edition of UL 962 do not need to undergo a file review unless changes are made to the to the product or a new product is submitted.

For new product, or products certified to the 3rd edition of UL 962 that have undergone changes, customers will have until January 1, 2016 to review the new requirements and can begin applying them at any point next year. For more information about the UL 962 4th edition, click here.

Between now and January 1, 2016, customers may decide if they wish to have their products evaluated to the 3rd or 4th Edition.

If you have any questions about the Continuous Certification Process or UL 962, please contact your UL Sales Manager, or email us at FurnitureNA@ul.com.

UL's Indiana Test Lab Offers KCMA Testing for Kitchen Cabinets

UL's Advanced Furniture Testing's Jasper, Indiana facility is one of two labs in the United States accredited to test to the Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association (KCMA) standard. The facility is accredited to test to:

- ANSI/KCMA Sections 5, 6, & 7
- Static Loading on Shelves and Bottoms of Cabinets
- Static Loading for Mounted Wall Cabinet
- Base Front Joint Loading
- Impact on Shelves, Cabinet Bottoms and Drawer Bottoms
- Impact on Base Cabinet Front and Door
- Door Racking and Hinge Set
- Door, Door-Holding Devices and Hinge Operation
- Drawer Operation
- Drawer-Closing Impact

We also handle any custom cyclic and static testing. Questions? Contact Brian Truelove at brian.truelove@ul.com or call 812.556.5094.

Conflict Minerals Reporting: Is Your Company Ready?

Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Financial Reform Act requires that companies traded on US stock exchanges disclose if conflict minerals in their products, such as tantalum, tin, tungsten, or gold, originated from conflict zones. Furniture and components can contain any one of these substances, but it can be difficult for manufacturers and retailers to determine what is in their product, where it comes from, and what they must disclose.

Click here to request a recording of our webinar on how to gain access to this data and manage an entire supply chain before products or materials arrive, as well as gain greater control over compliance issues while minimizing risks and costs.

BIFMA Releases Two New Tools to Assist with Updated e-3 Standard

At NeoCon 2014, BIFMA announced that the latest version of the ANSI/BIFMA e3-2014 Furniture Sustainability Standard, also known as level, had been released. Now, the Guidance Manual for the standard is available at the BIFMA website store. The Guidance Manual includes the text of the standard and interpretations of credits by the standard developers.

BIFMA has also released the "TRACI Look-Up Tool," which is an Excel file that provides a quick way to determine if a chemical is listed in e3 Annex B and/or USEPA's Tool for the Reduction and Assessment of Chemical and other Environmental Impacts (TRACI) 2011 dataset. The BIFMA website has more information on the Guidance Manual and TRACI Look-Up Tool.

Study Proves the Influence of Green Product Claims on Purchase Intent and Brand Perception

Ninety-three percent (93%) of consumers say that certification as a top-three reason to choose a product. Seventy percent (70%) of consumers say a certified claim is a reason to pay more for a product. However, purchasers are confused by the plethora of vague and sometimes misleading terminology used to distinguish more environmentally preferable products in the marketplace. UL Environment commissioned a study, conducted by Shelton Group, that polled more than 1000 consumer about green product claims, and measured the effects on purchase intent and brand perception. Learn more about the report and reserve your copy of the full report here, or watch an in-depth webinar.

Come See Us

Upcoming Tradeshows/Events

ISPA Conference
March 4-5, St. Petersburg, FL
Sponsoring and Exhibiting

Global Shop
March 24-26, Las Vegas
Exhibiting Booth# 3626

UL Webinars

Making Sense of California TB 117-2013
October 2, 11:00 AM-11:30 AM EDT

LISTEN NOW (In English)

DINP Added to California Prop 65 List: What this Means for Furniture

LISTEN NOW (in English)

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