

What is BIFMA?

- Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturer's Association
- Primarily a safety and performance standards development body who's work includes:
 - Furniture Emission Test Method and Standard (2007, Reaffirmed 2016)
 - e3 Furniture Sustainability Standard (2010)
- We are assemblers of materials and components purchased from others. Many of the materials we use are commodities brokered in a global supply chain
- Most member companies track material and process chemicals for regulatory and product certification typically at SDS level; and, most companies require suppliers to make periodic assertions of compliance with regulatory requirements and internal specification

BIFMA's Prop 65 Experience

- IAQ testing revealed a new level of information and in 2014 we initiated development of industry-specific exposure assessments.
- Years of experience taught us the supply chain lacks a mechanism for assessing and communicating chemical information to down stream users.
- We tracked the progress of “Clear and Reasonable Warning” and provided multiple updates to our membership.
- We did not anticipate the impact the change in language would have....
 - Prophylactic warnings came out of the woodwork...and many other materials
 - Everyone thought August 30 was their compliance deadline...

So...Our challenges are:

- We're assemblers at the end of a global supply chain - the tip of the tail of the dog
- Materials change hands many times on their way to our door - chemical content information does not
- Differences in regulatory approach
 - SB-1019: Clear language - Contains or Does Not Contain added FR
 - CARB 93120: Specific instructions and methodology for formaldehyde emission testing - Pass/Fail
 - Prop 65: No clear way to determine compliance
 - Lacks guidance on test methods for determining “content” and “exposure-relevant” parameters
 - Lacks guidance on calculating “exposure”

And...Our strategies are:

- Characterize basis for newly received warnings and prioritize evaluation efforts
- Build association-to-association information channels to ease individual supplier concerns
- Build on our experience in Standards development
 - Expand and standardize assessment methodologies and reporting
 - Look for assistance with filling information gaps
 - Look for outside resources to reduce financial burden and accelerate progress

Question?

BIFMA is the not-for-profit trade association for business and institutional furniture manufacturers. Since 1973, BIFMA has been the voice of the commercial furniture industry.

Our industry's service to our customers - providing healthy, comfortable, and productive workspaces - rests on an infrastructure of engineering and materials standards. These standards, founded on centuries of craft and enhanced by ever-advancing science, embody the best of our knowledge on safety, ergonomics, and sustainability.

BIFMA sponsors the development and refining of standards, educates on their importance and application, and translates their necessary complexity into more easily understood and implemented formats. We promote sustainability throughout the life cycle of commercial furniture. We offer statistical and educational resources to our members and the public and reach out to regulators, consumers, and international partners to foster value and innovation.

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