

Furniture Sustainability Standard



Improve Your Sustainability Profile

Demonstrate leadership through level™ certification

level™ is the certification program for the BIFMA e3-2008: *Business and Institutional Furniture Sustainability Standard* (BIFMA e3). The level™ conformance mark ensures a comprehensive, independent, and impartial assessment of the environmental and social impacts of a product's manufacture. level™ makes it easy to identify products that have been evaluated against the consensus-based, multi-attribute sustainability standard. The certification also provides benchmarks for continual improvement and innovation within the furniture industry.

BIFMA International and NSF International partnered to develop BIFMA e3. The standard establishes performance requirements that address the triple bottom line - economic-environment-social equity - throughout the supply chain. It is applicable to business and institutional furniture manufactured in one facility or multiple facilities, one country or multiple countries.

The standard includes prerequisite requirements as well as performance requirements and quantifiable metrics in four key areas:

- Material utilization
- Energy and atmosphere impacts
- Human and ecosystem health
- Social responsibility

Manufacturers certified by NSF to the BIFMA e3 sustainability standard can use the level™ certification mark on their products or in their advertising.



the BIFMA sustainability standard



Certification Benefit

Independent level™ certification allows you to:

- Distinguish your “green” products from your competitors, making you a preferred vendor to those seeking sustainable solutions
- Meet State and Federal procurement guidelines
- Achieve the most credible type of certification available in the marketplace
- Save money by adopting more sustainable operational practices and business approaches

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Certify to BIFMA Product Certification Program level™

Why Choose NSF International?

- Among the first third-party certification bodies recognized under the level™ certification program.
- Reliable Consistent Results: NSF knows the requirements inside and the intent behind each key area being a standards development organization.
- Meet Your Expanding Needs: NSF is also a leading worldwide third-party registrar with programs such as ISO 14001, ISO 9000 and Greenhouse Gas verification and Forestry certification services.
- Global Services: NSF conducts audits in over 100 countries and has a large network of international auditors.
- Exceptional Customer Service: We believe in the personal touch. You benefit from a single point of contact to guide you through the certification process.
- Cost Effective: NSF is price competitive. Each proposal is carefully tailored to the individual client. Discounts may be available for multiple services.
- Peace of Mind: NSF draws upon a 60-year history of laboratory testing, product review, validation and technical excellence.

Other Commercial Furniture Services

Besides product certification program level™ for business and institutional furniture, NSF also offers a comprehensive range of sustainable business solutions including:

- **Indoor Air Testing and Certification**

NSF's Indoor Air Emissions Certification Program identifies low volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions found in office furniture. VOCs, such as formaldehyde and aldehydes, are chemicals emitted by a wide array of products, including paints, building materials and furnishings, copiers and printers. This program directly addresses these concerns. Having standards in place that define and identify low-emitting furniture assist both manufacturers in communicating their message and end users in understanding environmental and sustainability-related product benefits.

- **Greenhouse Gas Management Services**

NSF has expanded its environmental services to provide verification and validation of Greenhouse Gas Inventories and projects, being one of just a handful of leading bodies in this field and accredited by US accreditation authority, ANSI. Our range of greenhouse gas management services meet regulatory and voluntary GHG reporting initiatives and enhance your company's public credibility in environmental initiatives.

- **Management Systems Registration from NSF-ISR**

NSF-ISR's comprehensive program will provide the total solution your company requires. If your organization is considering ISO 14001 registration in addition to your quality registration, NSF-ISR offers combined ISO 9000/14001 registration services.

Contact

For more information about independent, third-party certification to BIFMA's level™ certification program or other sustainable business solutions, contact NSF via:

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