

ANSI / BIFMA Certification

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and The Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association (BIFMA) are both private, not-for-profit agencies with the goal of creating commonly accepted standards for the office furniture industry. The two groups recently joined forces to create an industry-wide standard for rating office furniture in order to;

- Provide manufacturers, distributors, and customers with a universal way to evaluate durability and safety of office products, such as computer desks and task chairs.
- Determine how to test new products that enter the market for safety, quality, and durability.
- Establish minimum acceptance levels that a product must reach in order to be labeled ANSI / BIFMA certified.

There are a great deal of products tested to ANSI / BIFMA standards. Specifically regarding seating, whether it is reception, task, or office seating, ANSI / BIFMA has specific guidelines for testing in the areas of:

- Back Pull
- Unit Base
- Swivel Cycling
- Tilt Mechanism
- Seating Impact
- Front and Rear Stability
- Arm Strength
- Back Durability
- Caster/Chair Base Durability
- Footring Durability
- Tablet Arm Tests

Many corporations, government agencies, and institutes require that all of their office furniture and seating be ANSI / BIFMA certified. In order for a product to receive this certification, it must pass all tests required for that product. For example, an ANSI / BIFMA certified Task Chair must complete and pass testing in each of the areas listed above. These standards are reviewed every five years, and are then updated as needed.

