



The Industry Voice for Workplace Solutions

news release

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Contact: Richard Driscoll
Telephone: 616-285-3963

CHPS Adopts ANSI/BIFMA FES

It is official - the Collaborative for High Performance Schools, (CHPS), an early adopter of some of the most stringent VOC emissions criteria in North America, has adopted the ANSI/BIFMA furniture emissions standards. CHPS has publicly released their 2009 criteria, which include the IEQ Low-emitting Materials 2.2.5 Furniture and Furnishings requirements.

For school administrative areas, CHPS EQ 2.2.5 requires testing and modeling in accordance with ANSI/BIFMA M7.1-2007, compliance with ANSI/BIFMA X7.1-2007, and compliance with the requirements of the California Department of General Services RFP for open office systems (consistent with the limits defined in the CA DPH Standard Practice of 2004, aka Section 01350). For school classrooms, CHPS EQ 2.2.5 uses the same criteria but requires modeling in accordance with the CA DPH Standard Practice classroom exposure model.

Importantly, this makes the CHPS 2009 criteria for administrative office workstations and seating consistent with the BIFMA e3 Furniture Sustainability Standard, Section 7.6 Low-emitting Furniture requirements for open plan conditions. Workstations and seating that achieve both points available in Section 7.6 of the BIFMA e3 criteria for open plan offices will also be compliant to the CHPS EQ 2.2.5 criteria.

CHPS criteria have previously been adopted in ten states. This updated CHPS 2009 language has now been adopted by the California and Texas CHPS organizations, and adoption is pending in Colorado, all of which provides continuing evidence of harmonization and success for stakeholders of the ANSI/BIFMA furniture emissions standards.

This success is due to the combined efforts and partnership of many organizations, but Toni Stein of the California Department of General Services and Al Hodgson of Berkeley Analytical Associates deserve special recognition here as they provided the leadership within the CHPS technical committee to update these requirements.

Link to CHPS website: www.chps.net

Link to CHPS March newsletter: <http://www.chps.net/announcements/nwsltrMarch09.htm>

Link to CHPS press release about 2009 criteria release:
<http://www.chps.net/states/090313TexasCaliforniaCHPSRelease.pdf>