

THE DOWNLOAD

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calendar BIFMA EVENTS

The Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association (BIFMA) International had scheduled the following list of meetings and events as of press time. Additional events will be posted to the BIFMA website on the Internet at www.bifma.org.

October 13, 2009
1:00 - 4:00 pm Central Time
Government Affairs Committee
Four Points Hotel - Chicago O'Hare,
Chicago, IL

October 14, 2009
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Annual Engineering Committee
Four Points Hotel - Chicago O'Hare,
Chicago, IL

October 27, 2009
1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Central Time
Sustainable Furniture Standard &
level™ Certification Program
"Train-The-Trainer" Session
LOCATION: Allsteel Resource Center
1120 Merchandise Mart
Chicago, IL.

October 28, 2009
Sustainable Furniture Standard &
level™ Certification Program
Session
NeoCon East
Baltimore, MD

November 18, 2009
1:00 - 4:00 pm Eastern Time
Sustainability Committee
BIFMA Conference Room
Grand Rapids, MI

January 12, 2010
11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Statistical Information Committee -
BIFMA Conference Room
Grand Rapids, MI BIFMA

President's Executive Order Could Speed level™ Adoption

Since Spring, BIFMA has been educating the marketplace about its new Furniture Sustainability Standard. Those efforts have been enhanced at the U.S. Federal Government level due to an Executive Order signed by President Barack Obama that requires federal agencies to, among other things, leverage their federal purchasing power to promote sustainability.

"As the largest consumer of energy in the U.S. economy, the federal government can and should lead by example when it comes to creating innovative ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy efficiency, conserve water, reduce waste, and use environmentally-responsible products and technologies," said President Obama.

The new Executive Order makes reducing greenhouse gas emissions a priority for the federal government, which occupies nearly 500,000 buildings, operates more than 600,000 vehicles, employs more than 1.8 million civilians, and purchases more than \$500 billion per year in goods and services.

In his order, President Obama requires agencies to meet a number of energy, water, and waste reduction targets, including 50 percent recycling and waste diversion by 2015; and that 95 percent of all applicable contracts will meet sustainability requirements. Implementation of the Executive Order

will focus on integrating achievement of sustainability goals with agency mission and strategic planning to optimize performance and minimize implementation costs.

Implementation will be managed through the previously-established Office of the Federal Environmental Executive (OFEE), working in close partnership with the White House Office of Management and Budget, the Council on Environmental Quality, and the agencies.

While BIFMA has already had significant governmental interest in the Furniture Sustainability Standard and level™ Certification Program, the Executive Order greatly improves the chances of BIFMA's standard gaining nationwide attention. The order asks the Federal Environmental Executive to "identify strategies and tools to assist Federal implementation efforts under this order, including through the sharing of best practices from successful Federal sustainability efforts". Having worked closely with the Environmental Protection Agency and other agencies as stakeholders in the development of BIFMA's standard, it is hoped that it will now be cited as the best standard for sustainable furniture assessments and as a template for evaluation of all sustainable products.

Industry Forecast Update

The latest Global Insight quarterly forecast was released on August 27 and its projections for office furniture consumption have decreased somewhat since the last update in May. The year over year change for 2009 at that time was 27.4% and 3.9% for 2010 with proportionate decreases for shipments. The current industry projections are:

	<u>U.S. Shipments</u>	<u>U.S. Consumption</u>
2009	\$7.7 billion (-31.0% change)	\$9.0 billion (-30.7% change)
2010	\$7.6 billion (-1.4% change)	\$8.9 billion (-0.7% change)

The latest revisions to national accounts data and GDP suggest that the recession was deeper than first thought, with a 3.9% decline in real GDP from the second quarter of 2008 to the second of 2009. Even though the recovery is still expected to be a slow one, the incoming evidence suggests that the pick-up in growth in the second half of the year will be more rapid than anticipated. Slow office construction is expected to continue through the first half of 2010, keeping orders and shipments of office furniture down. A slow recovery from the rest of the world will keep exports falling through the first half of 2010. A return to positive industry growth is expected to begin late in 2010.

level™ Training & Education Opportunities

Understanding standards can be a complex undertaking. Understanding a multi-attribute standard built for commercial contract furnishing can be even more daunting. That's why BIFMA has developed unique training modules for the multiple audiences that have asked for information on the third party certification program called level™.

There are technical training programs for manufacturers to understand the system specifics of the standard. For executive management, there is also a more "top level" approach that accounts for all of the specifics, but provides more of a macro view of level.

BIFMA is offering a 4-hour level "Train-The-Trainer" session on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 from 1-5 p.m. in the Allsteel Resource Center located at 1120 Merchandise Mart, Chicago, IL. The training session fee is \$200 per person. The 4-hour session offers fairly detailed information regarding the BIFMA Furniture Sustainability Standard's content, structure, intent, and application. It provides information about the level certification and labeling program, the use of third party certification bodies, and intended customer messaging. Upon successful completion of this training course, a participant's name will be submitted to IDCEC for approval as a registered trainer and, once accepted, they will be authorized as an accredited level CEU faculty member.

There is also a session for the A&D community covering the specifics of the standard, but in a framework that showcases how it applies to their daily work and the need to specify sustainably certified products. The

next A&D training is scheduled for Wednesday, October 28, 2009 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Baltimore, MD during NeoCon East.

That program is entitled: *The Basics: A Guide to BIFMA's Sustainable Furniture Standard and Certification* and participants will learn the key elements of the new BIFMA sustainability standard and explore the level third party certification program. What LEED is to buildings, level™ is to furniture products. Participants will leave with a basic understanding of the categories of compliance, the certification process, and get up to speed with this standard that was three years in the making.

The speakers in Baltimore will be Craig Bren, vice president of market development for Tuohy Furniture Corporation, and Tom Reardon, executive director of BIFMA. Tom and Craig have also presented this program at NeoCon in Chicago and IIDEX in Toronto. Because of the importance of the government marketplace, a special effort is being made in Baltimore to inform that community of this offering. It is free to all government employees with a Government ID (federal, state, or local).

Finally, plans are being made for a self-driven, web-based training module that will be applicable for anyone interested in understanding the standard.

Trainings on the standard began in May 2009. To request information about hosting a level training session at your company, facility, or for your group, contact: bmiller@bifma.org



BIFMA Research Published

BIFMA research is improving emissions testing and gaining international attention. In September, over 1,700 people from 44 countries attended the Ninth International Healthy Buildings conference in Syracuse, NY (www.hb2009.org). Dr. Jianshun (Jensen) Zhang, Alfred Hodgson, and Randy Carter gave presentations on BIFMA sponsored research. "Manufacturers, laboratories, and customers share in the benefits when measurement science is improved" said Carter, Chair of the BIFMA Furniture Emissions Subcommittee. Participants included researchers, government officials, architects, designers, and others.

The conference included a workshop on VOC emissions rating systems. Discussion focused on differences and the potential for harmonization. Representatives of the leading U.S. and European labeling programs summarized their requirements. Annelise Larsen of IKEA presented the IKEA VOC emissions specifications. Stowe Hartridge-Beam of Scientific Certification Systems presented the Indoor Advantage program. Reinhard Oppl of Eurofins Product Testing, Bob Thompson of the US EPA, and Randy Carter of Steelcase co-chaired the workshop for over 85 participants.



Al Hodgson of Berkeley Analytical Associates presents BIFMA sponsored research at the Ninth International Healthy Buildings Conference September 14, 2009.

Many of the presentations are available at this link:

<http://product-testing.eurofins.com/testing/safety---chemical/electrical/fire/chemical-safety/emission-into-indoor-air/emission-testing---events/healthy-buildings-conference-2009/presentations-in-voc-workshop.aspx>

Al Hodgson of Berkeley Analytical Associates presented the BIFMA supported research demonstrating that laboratories can use small chamber tests of materials (e.g. portions of a work surface, drawer body, etc.) to determine compliance of workstations or furniture like tables and file cabinets. Jensen Zhang of Syracuse University presented the results of the BIFMA sponsored study on test variation involving these laboratories:

- Berkeley Analytical Associates
- Forintek
- Material Analytical Services
- Syracuse University
- US EPA National Risk Management Research Laboratory

Randy Carter presented an overview of the ANSI/BIFMA furniture emissions standards with a preview of the improvements in the 2010 revisions still in process. BIFMA's leadership in scientific work continues to produce practical improvements.

Industry Welcomes New Members

BIFMA International welcomes our newest members to the office furniture industry's trade association ranks:

Regular Members:

- Charles Alan Inc. - Fort Worth, TX
- Industrias Riviera S.A. de C.V. - Mexico City, Mexico
- Innovative Seating Solutions LLC - Buffalo, NY

Supplier Members:

- Fulterer - Highpoint, NC
- Hydro Aluminum - Charlottesville, VA

Service Members:

- GREENGUARD Environmental Institute - Marietta, GA

International Members:

- Al-Khateeb Furniture Industries Co. W.W.I. - Kuwait
- M/S Dolphin Space Systems - Delhi, India

- Smart Furniture Panama, S.A. - Panama City, Panama
- Talin Modular Office Furniture Systems Pvt. Ltd. - Bangalore, Karnataka, India

BIFMA International develops voluntary product and industry standards that support safe, healthy and sustainable environments; publishes key industry statistics; advocates for legislation and government regulation that has a direct impact on the health of the industry; and facilitates meaningful dialog and education to support our core services and the industry we serve.

For information on how to join BIFMA and the many benefits of belonging, visit our website at <http://bifma.org/info/index.html>.



An International Chair Measuring Device

Measuring the complex geometry of office seating products has always been a challenge. Product designers seem to have no end to the creative combinations they can put together to match the needs of the office worker in an ever-changing environment. There are standards such as the ANSI/HFES 100-2007 - Human Factors Engineering of Computer Workstations, and guideline documents such as BIFMA's G1-2002 Ergonomics Guideline for VDT (Visual Display Terminal) Furniture used in Office Work Spaces, that provide guidance for the relevant dimensions for seating products. With documents such as these in hand, a product designer has a good idea regarding the needs of office seating users but without a standardized method of measuring chairs, problems can present themselves. Questions arise such as "What dimensions should the chair seat be constructed to?"; "Where should the armrests be placed?"; "How much lumbar adjustment should there be?"; and so forth.

In the late 1990's and early 2000's a BIFMA committee, powered by industry volunteers, developed a measurement procedure and a device to aid in making accurate and repeatable measurements of chairs. Thus, the BIFMA Chair Measuring Device (CMD) and the Universal Measurement Procedure for the use of the BIFMA Chair Measuring Device, BIFMA/CMD-1-2002 came into existence. The furniture industry welcomed the availability of a very useful instrument for measuring the significant dimensions of office seating.

As the industry proceeded through the early 21st century, BIFMA delegates to the ISO Technical Committee TC 136, began working with delegates from other countries (mostly Europe) on a Chair Measuring Device that would be truly international. This project has been underway for a number of years with cooperation and esprit de corps that is unprecedented in the standards development work at the international level.

Some of the main differences/improvements as compared to the BIFMA CMD are:

- the additional weight (approximately 165 lbs. to represent a 50th percentile person)
- the three-dimensional loaded thoracic area that better represents the shape and load distribution of a person's back, giving better representations of back

angles/measurements

- the improved pneumatically activated lumbar measuring device that gives quicker, more accurate and repeatable results for lumbar height and protrusion
- back height and headrest height measuring apparatus included
- placement gantry that allows for easier movement and more precise placement of the device in the chair for more repeatable measurements

"I think the cooperation on the development of this device has been fantastic. It has been a fine example of international collaboration to attain the common goal of a harmonized test device and usage protocol/standard. The development of this standard is widely seen as one that will truly benefit anyone selling seating products on an international basis" said Randy Ruster of Herman Miller Inc. Randy is the Chairman of BIFMA's International



Standards Subcommittee and Chairman of BIFMA's Engineering Committee. Jeff Musculus of Steelcase, Inc. added "Having one international standard in which to measure the ergonomic features of office chairs is a win-win for global manufacturers, customers, and specifiers."

The final stages of the development work on the International CMD will be completed by the end of this year. Then the process of balloting the document to all the countries that are participating members of ISO TC 136 will begin. The balloting phase can be a lengthy process, but we are confident that this device and measurement protocol will be approved and adopted by many nations around the world.

" The ISO CMD Ad Hoc Group committee is a terrific example of International co-operation. It is a good example of how an International Committee can work together for the good all interests. I appreciate the effort of the committee made to achieve a specific workable solution to measuring chairs. I look forward to using the ISO CMD." - Jim Suzuki, Director of Test Machine Research & Development, The Global Group

If you are interested in learning more about this new development for measuring chairs, please contact Dick Driscoll at BIFMA International. Email: rdriscoll@bifma.org.



第 25 届中国广州国际家具博览会

25th China International Furniture Fair (Guangzhou)

办公环境展
Office Show

*Asia's Largest Sourcing Fair for Office,
Contract & Commercial Furniture*


- 130,000 SQM
- Over 50,000 visitors
- Around 600 exhibitors




2010.3.27-30

China Import and Export Fair Complex

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 CHINA INTERNATIONAL WOODWORKING MACHINERY
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中国对外贸易广州展览公司
CHINA FOREIGN TRADE GUANGZHOU EXHIBITION CORP

Tel: +86-20-86673473 ; +86-20-26081612

Fax: +86-20-86663416-01 ; +86-20-86681629-01

E-mail: ciff@fairwindow.com.cn

Website: www.fairwindow.com

Formaldehyde Legislation Introduced

S. 1660, the Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Products Act, was introduced in the United States Senate in September with BIFMA's endorsement. This bipartisan legislation, sponsored by Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Sen. Michael Crapo (R-ID), directs the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to extend California's technology-based standards for formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products ("the CARB rule") nationwide. The legislation would add a new section to the federal Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and require EPA to enact a national rule by 2011.

California's Airborne Toxic Control Measure to Reduce Formaldehyde Emissions from Composite Wood Products is the result of a seven-year cooperative effort between industry, regulatory authorities and public interest groups to dramatically reduce formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products, including requirements for panel testing and third-party certification. This regulation, Phase One of which went into effect on January 1, 2009, represents a carefully considered path forward to greener and more sustainable technologies. Many impacted industries in the U.S. and around the world are already working diligently to meet its requirements. A national standard modeled on California's approach will ensure that composite wood products are manufactured with the lowest achievable levels of formaldehyde emissions; encourage development of lower emitting and alternative technologies; and establish a transparent chain of custody for purposes of enforcement.

EPA has been considering action based on its already-issued Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. The agency took public comments at six forums around the country, including New Orleans, where formaldehyde

emissions from FEMA-issued emergency trailers were the focus. This legislative guidance would prevent a complex and divisive rulemaking process requiring many years to complete by directing EPA to:

- Adopt nationwide the Phase Two (final) formaldehyde emission standards in the California Airborne Toxic Control Measure to Reduce Formaldehyde Emissions From Composite Wood Products;
- Apply this national standard to all three relevant products – particleboard, medium density fiberboard (MDF) and hardwood plywood;
- Adopt implementing regulations for the other key elements of the California rule, including third party testing and certification, labeling, sellthrough provisions, consideration for ultra low emitting and no added formaldehyde resins, finished good requirements, auditing, reporting and recordkeeping; and
- Provide a reporting mechanism to Congress.

BIFMA supports this uniform, comprehensive legislative approach. After many months of coalition-building among industry and environmental groups, the Composite Panel Association (CPA) and the Sierra Club brought together a very diverse coalition to support this alternative to a full blown EPA rulemaking. Other organizations (in addition to BIFMA, CPA, and the Sierra Club) supporting the legislation and participating in its development include the American Forest & Paper Association, Alliance for Healthy Homes, APA-The Engineered Wood Association, Hardwood Plywood & Veneer Association, National Center for Healthy Housing, National Environmental Health Association, and United Steelworkers Union.

The coalition is hopeful that the legislation is promptly enacted by Congress so that EPA can initiate its rulemaking next year with this legislative guidance in place.

Applied Ergonomics Conference & Expo

The 13th Annual Applied Ergonomics Conference (AEC), sponsored by the Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE) is scheduled for March 22, 2010 through March 25, 2010 at the JW Marriott in San Antonio, Texas.

The AEC is one of the largest and most impressive ergonomics conferences in North America. Presenters are practitioners sharing real-world experiences and practical solutions to common problems in industry. This conference provides comprehensive and broad-spectrum education for employees at all levels (managers to professionals to line-workers).

Educational tracks include:

- Ergonomics Programs
- Office Ergonomics Programs and Applications
- The Role of Ergonomics in Healthcare

- Lean Enterprises and Ergonomics
- Manufacturing Applications
- Special Populations in Today's Work Force – Obese and Aging Populations

For additional information, visit the conference website at: <http://www.iienet2.org/Ergo/Conference/default.aspx>



Greenbuild Goes West

Greenbuild 2009 will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, the fifth largest city in the country, and a thriving capital in the heart of the American Southwest. Phoenix's unique environmental and social characteristics speak to the diversity of the United States and the imperative of Greenbuild 2009: Green building can and must come home to all people, boosting the quality of life across the country and around the world.

The Honorable Al Gore will address thousands of Greenbuild attendees at Chase Field in Phoenix, Ariz. as part of the Greenbuild Opening Keynote & Celebration on Wednesday, Nov. 11. Along with four terms in Congress, two terms in the Senate, and two terms as Vice President, Gore has written the bestsellers *Earth in the Balance*, *An Inconvenient Truth* and the just-released "Our Choice."

Greenbuild 2009, Nov. 11-13 in Phoenix, promises to be the biggest yet, with addresses from seven remarkable master speakers (see list below); over 150 educational sessions; more than 1,000 exhibitors; and specialty updates and educational sessions for every discipline, with sector-specific recommendations for 10 market sectors.

2009 Master Speakers

- Daniel Wildcat, Director, Haskell Environmental Research Studies Center and

the American Indian Studies Program, Haskell Indian Nations University

Wednesday, November 11, 8:30am - 10:00am

- Sylvia Earle, Explorer-in-Residence, National Geographic Society

Wednesday, November 11, 2:00pm - 3:30pm

- Peter Gleick, Co-Founder and President, Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment, and Security

Wednesday, November 11, 4:00pm - 5:30pm

- Arthur Rubinfeld, President, Global Development, Starbucks Coffee Company

Thursday, November 12, 8:30am - 10:00am

- Paul King, Chief Executive, UK Green Building Council (UK GBC)

Thursday, November 12, 2:00pm - 3:30pm

- Josh Bernstein, International Explorer, Author, Survival Expert, and TV host, Discovery Channel's *Into the Unknown* with Josh Bernstein

Thursday, November 12, 4:00pm - 5:30pm

- Christoph Ingenhoven, Principal and Founder, Ingenhoven Architekten

Friday, November 13, 8:30am - 10:00am

To register, go to <http://www.greenbuildexpo.org/register>

Coalition Procurement Conference

The Coalition For Government Procurement's Fall Conference is recognized as one of the most important and informative events in the procurement world's year. This year's Fall Conference will take place on November 4th and 5th at the Hilton Arlington located at 950 North Stafford Street, Arlington, VA. As always, speakers will include representatives from both industry and government. Invited speakers include Paul Prouty, Acting Administrator of the General Services Administration and Federal Budget Expert Stan Collender of Qorvis Communications. In addition, the second day of this conference is entitled *GREEN PROCUREMENT AND YOU - How Federal "Go Green" Initiatives Will Impact Government Contractors*. See the agenda:

8:30am

WELCOME

Larry Allen, President, Coalition for Government Procurement

8:45am

GREEN KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Major Executive Branch Green Initiatives

Michelle Moore, Federal Environmental Executive, OMB

9:30am

Congressional Views on Green Procurement

- *Lisa Nieman, Min. Coun., Senate Homeland Sec. and Gov. Aff. Comm.

Mary Ellen Fraser, Of Counsel, McKenna, Long and Aldridge

10:30am

Break

10:45am

GSA and Industry Implementation of Green Procurement Initiatives

Lance Davies, Architect, Public Building Service

Houston Taylor, Green Procurement Branch Chief, GSA Federal Acquisition Service

Yalmaz Siddiqui, Director, Environmental Strategy, Office Depot

11:45am

Adjourn

*invited, not yet confirmed

Contact Megan Biggins at 202-331-0975 for more information.

The Download is published quarterly by BIFMA International to provide a brief update of association activities.

BIFMA International
678 Front Ave., NW, Suite 150
Grand Rapids, MI 49504-5368
Phone 616-285-3963 / Fax 616-285-3765
email@bifma.org / Website www.bifma.org

BIFMA Staff

Thomas Reardon *Executive Director*

Richard Driscoll *Director-Technical Services*

Brad Miller *Director-Government Affairs*

Michael Reagan *Manager-Administration
and Statistical Information*

Roxanne DeBoer *Administrative Assistant*

Editorial Staff

Brad Miller

Roxanne DeBoer

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Chuck Saylor, izzy

Lynn Utter, Knoll, Inc.

Brian Walker, Herman Miller Inc.

CALENDAR

of industry events

Updated regularly on BIFMA's Internet Site: www.bifma.org

October 17-22, 2009 - Fall International Home Furnishings Market - High Point, NC;
<http://www.ihfc.com>; 336-888-3700

October 19-23, 2009 - Human Factors and Ergonomics Society 53rd Annual Meeting – Grand Hyatt San Antonio, San Antonio, TX; <http://www.hfes.org/web/HFESMeetings/meetings.html>

October 21-24, 2009 – ZOW 2009 – Verona, Italy 39 02 8699 5712 Fax: 39 02 8699 5112,
<http://www.zow.it>, info@zow.it

October 22-23, 2009 - Florida Industrial Woodworking Expo; Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL; <http://www.tsiexpos.com/fl/index.cfm>

October 27, 2009 - Sustainable Furniture Standard & level™ Certification Program "Train-The-Trainer" Session - Allsteel Resource Center, 1120 Merchandise Mart, Chicago IL; 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Central Time

October 28, 2009 - NeoCon East: Sustainable Furniture Standard & level™ Certification Program Session - Baltimore, MD

November 4-5, 2009 - Coalition For Government Procurement's Fall Conference - Hilton Arlington, 950 North Stafford Street, Arlington, VA; Contact Megan Biggins at 202-331-0975 for more information.

November 11-13, 2009 - Greenbuild International Conference & Expo – in Phoenix, AZ;
<http://www.greenbuildexpo.org>

January 19 - 24, 2010 – The International Furniture Fair (IMM) - Cologne, Germany;
<http://www.furniturefair-cologne.com> <http://www.furniturefair-cologne.com>

January 24-27, 2010 - Interiors Birmingham - Birmingham, U.K.,
<http://www.thefurnitureshow.co.uk> <http://www.thefurnitureshow.co.uk>

March 9-12, 2010 – IFFS/AFS Singapore Expo – International Furniture Centre, Singapore; Tel: (65) 6569 6988; Fax: (65) 6569 9939; Email: enquiry@iffs.com.sg; <http://www.iffs.com.sg>

March 22-25, 2010 - 13th Annual Applied Ergonomics Conference (AEC), sponsored by the Institute of Industrial (IIE) Engineers at the JW Marriott in San Antonio, Texas; website: <http://www.iienet2.org/Ergo/Conference/default.aspx>

March 24-26, 2010 - GLOBE 2010 – Vancouver, Canada; T - 604-633-0703; E - trish@globe.ca; www.globe2010.com

May 4-8, 2010 – XYLEXPO 22nd Biennial World Exhibition for Woodworking Technology and Furniture Suppliers in Assago MI, Italy; +39-02-89210200 <http://www.xylexpo.com/eng>

June 10–12, 2010 - American Institute of Architects (AIA) national convention – Miami (Future Convention Dates: May 12–14, 2011 - New Orleans; May 17–19, 2012 - Washington, DC)

June 14-16, 2010 –Annual NeoCon® World's Trade Fair - Chicago, IL; Contact: Merchandise Mart Properties, Inc.; Telephone: 800-643-6074 or 312-527-7300; HYPERLINK " <http://www.merchandisemart.com> " www.merchandisemart.com (click on NeoCon)

June 16, 2010, BIFMA International's Annual Meeting - Chicago, IL; Telephone: 616-285-3963; Fax: 616-285-3765; Email: email@bifma.org; <http://www.bifma.org>