



Performance Requirements for Office Furniture

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Workplace and Sourcing Solutions (WSS), Furniture National Center of Expertise (FNCOE)

Real Property Services (RPS)

Requirement

The Government of Canada is responsible for creating safe and healthy work environments for all its employees. Furniture must meet, or exceed, stringent performance, ergonomic, dimensional and sustainability standards. **All furniture purchased for Government of Canada office spaces must meet the performance standards listed below and must be purchased through the mandatory procurement instruments for furniture.** Mandatory commodities are listed in the Supply Manual. [Chapter 3 - Procurement strategy | CanadaBuys](#).

Commercial grade furniture must be certified to meet certain specifications according to requirements established by the National Furniture Center of Expertise (FNCOE). This means the furniture must undergo rigorous laboratory testing before being certified for durability, ergonomics, sustainability and safety. As a general rule, non-commercial grade furniture would fail the performance testing. Uncertified products should not be purchased or installed within government office space as the risks outweigh the cost savings. Risks include (not limited to); inadequate ergonomics could lead to bodily injury, warranty issues, premature replacement costs due to poor quality, and not contributing to the Green Government Strategy. These risks represent potential liabilities for the Government and its employees.

The following standards apply to commercial grade furniture:

Performance standards for Furniture

- **ANSI/BIFMA** – Various test standards addressing product functionality, durability and sustainability (BIFMA Levels® - minimum level 2)
- **ANSI/BIFMA X10.1** – Ergonomics Requirement for Furniture Designed for Computer Use
- **CAN/ULC-S102** – Standard Method of Test for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials and Assemblies
- **TB-117-2013 - California Technical Bulletin 117** – Flammability Standard Requirements for Upholstered Furniture
- **CSA C22.1: Canadian Electrical Code, Part I, Safety Standards for Electrical Installations.** (Listed under ULC or ETL equivalent)

Dimensional and material standards

- **CAN/CGSB (historical standard references)** – Various standards addressing product dimensions and component requirements for free-standing office desk/table, storage products and components, interconnecting panel systems and supported components and chairs for office environments.

Quality management systems:

- **ISO 9001** : ISO 9001 is an international standard that outlines the requirements for a quality management system (QMS). It helps organizations of all sizes and sectors to improve their performance, meet customer expectations and demonstrate their commitment to quality. Its requirements define how to establish, implement, maintain, and continually improve a quality management system (QMS).

Environmental and sustainability standards

The Government of Canada is a global leader in sustainability and is committed to improving government operations and commodities to be low-carbon, resilient and environmentally responsible. The [Greening Government Strategy](#) is consistent with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy. Green procurement is a key component of Public Services and Procurement Canada's contribution to the Greening Government Strategy.

Purchasing commercial grade furniture contributes to the Government of Canada's commitment to reduce its carbon footprint by:

- Maximizing recycled content and recyclability of furniture components;
- Promoting environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of Canadian forests by sourcing furniture made with certified wood (such as FSC Certification wood)
- Adopting ANSI/BIFMA E3 – Furniture Sustainability Standard, BIFMA Levels® Certification
- Sourcing suppliers with ISO14001 Environmental Management Systems
- Improving Standards pertaining to volatile organic compounds (VOC) emissions from office furniture systems, components and seating;
- Sustainable Furniture Credits (LEED, WELL, fitwel, etc.); and
- Life cycle strategies, including waste reduction with end-of-life solutions.

For any questions please reach out to the FNCOE:
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For more information, please visit our GcPedia page:
<https://www.gcpedia.gc.ca/wiki/Gcworkspace>