

Furniture Flame Retardancy Partnership

Partnership Structure

DRAFT

Steering Committee (typically 8-10 members)

Co-Leads

- Bill Perdue, AFMA
- Dick Driscoll or Brad Miller, BIFMA
- Kathleen Vokes, USEPA

Responsibilities

- Directs the overall project
- Establishes project goals
- Defines organizational structure
- Develops overall project plan, with input from workgroups
- Coordinates workgroups and meetings
- Maintains project momentum
- Publicizes project (e.g. speaking at meetings)
- Recruits participants and solicits funding as necessary
- Provides a forum to mediate differences
- Assesses the overall success of the project

Suggested Membership

- Furniture Manufacturers
- US EPA Region IX
- Foam Association Representative (PFA)?
- Fabric Association Representative(s)?
- Related Trade Associations
- Others?

Technical Committee (Four Subcommittees; Unlimited Membership)

- Chemical Information
- Performance Testing
- Publicity
- Other

Chemical Information Subcommittee

Responsibilities

- Develop a comprehensive set of traditional and nontraditional flame retardant solutions for furniture foam and fabric
- Select flame retardant chemicals for evaluation
- Set boundaries for evaluation
- Develop strategy for collecting chemical information from industry
- Select non-chemical flame retardant solutions for evaluation (e.g. barrier technologies)
- Develop a strategy for reviewing non-chemical flame retardant solutions
- Review environmental assessment methodology
- Assemble and document information in a comparative analytical framework

Suggested Membership

- Foam Manufacturers
- Chemical Manufacturers
- Furniture Manufacturers
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Research Institutes/Universities
- Environmental Group(s)

Performance Testing Subcommittee

Responsibilities

- Develops a detailed demonstration protocol
- Helps identify testing facilities
- Works with facilities to conduct testing
- Compiles results for the technical workgroup

Suggested Membership

- Furniture Manufacturers
- Foam Manufacturers
- US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)
- National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM)
- Research Institutes/Universities
- Chemical Manufacturers

Publicity Subcommittee

Responsibilities

- Develops a communications strategy focused on informing and educating a variety of groups about the project and project results
- Develops fact sheets, brochures, website, articles, conferences, etc...
- Enlists support and participation in the partnership

Suggested Membership

- Furniture Manufacturers
- Foam Manufacturers
- Environmental Group
- Consumer Group

Other

Responsibilities

- General partnership support and involvement
- Reviews partnership documents

Potential Roles and Contributions of Key Stakeholder Sectors

Industry (Furniture Mfg., Foam Mfg., Chemical Mfg., Trade Associations)

- Co-Chair core group and work groups
- Gather industry specific information (e.g. through surveys)
- Provide technical expertise on industry processes and technologies
- Identify nontraditional alternatives
- Publicize project events and results to members
- Develop and disseminate information/educational materials
- Identify and encourage industry members who will contribute to and participation in performance demonstrations, estimate assumptions, and reviewing outputs
- Provide funding for some project activities
- Promote risk reduction and Pollution Prevention behavior changes
- Ensure cost effectiveness of solutions

Government (US EPA, CPSC, NASFM)

- Provide leadership
- Co-Chair core group and work groups
- Provide technical expertise (e.g., for risk evaluation)
- Gather regulatory information
- Contribute to the development and dissemination of outreach and educational materials
- Provide funding for some project activities
- Promote risk reduction and pollution prevention behavior changes

Public Interest Groups (e.g., Environmental Working Group, Consumer Federation of America)

- Provide information on risks (e.g. environmental releases, exposure) associated with industry processes, products and practices
- Identify nontraditional alternatives
- Contribute to the development of outreach and educational materials
- Publicize project events and results to the public
- Ensure that solutions consider public interest perspectives

Research Institutes/Universities/Laboratories (e.g., NC State University, Clemson University, University of Cincinnati, Herman Miller, Steelcase, NIST Building Fire Research Laboratory)

- Conduct research, analyze technical data, and develop technical documents
- Provide technical expertise on industry processes and technologies and on risk assessment
- Conduct performance demonstrations to evaluate alternative processes and products
- Ensure technical work meets scholarly standards