

Draft for Peer Review

Sustainable Furniture Council
Membership Requirements and Application Questionnaire
2008

Draft for Peer Review

Thank you for your interest in joining the Sustainable Furniture Council (SFC). Your participation is both welcome and appreciated. We believe that our partnership to support the mission of sustainability will benefit your company's bottom line and foster a culture of environmental stewardship that will benefit the bottom line of the planet as well.

The SFC is an independent non-profit balanced coalition. Our mission is to promote sustainable practices within the home furnishings industry and raise awareness among manufacturers, retailers, designers and consumers. It is our belief that sustainable practices are those that promote a healthy balance between the environment, local economies and social equity.

Sustainable Furniture Council Position Statement

The Sustainable Furniture Council recognizes the overwhelming scientific consensus that our world is experiencing dangerous global climate change. In acknowledgement of the tremendous urgency to take action, SFC members will take immediate steps to minimize carbon emissions and waste stream pollutants SFC members will also work to eliminate un-recyclable content and primary materials from unsustainable sources from any product platform under our control.

SFC members will utilize Life Cycle Assessment as the best method for analyzing the environmental impact of their products, and a verifiable chain of custody as the only acceptable method for tracking wood flow.

SFC members support the triple bottom line of PEOPLE -PLANET-PROFITS and will lead the industry in developing awareness of best practices throughout their supply chains. Members will accomplish this goal by increasing their purchases from suppliers that show continual improvement toward meeting our high standards.

Sustainable Furniture Council Membership Benefits

Benefits of SFC Membership in 2008 include:

- Peer support for your commitment to improving the global environment and public health
- Increased value for your brand

- Being recognized as an industry leader for sustainability
- Use of the logo in marketing materials
- And many others listed as Annex A to this document

Membership Requirements

Our membership is annual, based on the calendar year. Criteria for Sustainable Furniture Council (SFC) Membership include:

1. A statement in the public domain that indicates alignment with SFC’s mission
2. Evidence of performance, and of commitment to continual and demonstrated improvement in the sustainability of all company operations. We see this in an Action Plan (see Annex B) that describes improvements you will make in this year.
3. Education and promotion within your organization and in the broader community about the importance of SFC’s mission in helping to reduce the causes of dangerous global climate change.

Upon meeting the requirements for Sustainable Furniture Council (SFC) membership, members are responsible for payment of dues based on the following scale:

Annual sales volume or institutional budget:

up to \$500,000 -	\$250
\$501,000-\$5million -	\$1000
\$5-25million -	\$1750
\$25-50million -	\$2700
over \$50million -	\$3750

Friend of SFC:

Individual - \$125; Student - \$25

Description of Membership Categories

Membership is open to individuals, corporations, associations and other non-profit organizations. Membership is organized into the following categories:

1. Applicant Member
2. SFC Corporate Member
3. SFC Exemplary Corporate Member
4. Friend of SFC (Individual Member)

Applicant Members. Upon completion of the membership application with the signature of the company CEO and payment of the \$250 application fee, one becomes an Applicant Member. Eligibility for SFC member status is assessed at this time.

SFC Members. After the SFC determines that all application requirements are met; members pay the appropriate dues and achieve SFC Member status. SFC Members receive the SFC logo which is subject to the SFC Logo Use Guidelines (Annex C). A link to each SFC Corporate Member web site is added to the web site of the Sustainable Furniture Council.

SFC Exemplary Members. All SFC members are invited to apply to attain Exemplary Membership. Exemplary members receive increased logo recognition on the web site of the SFC. Exemplary members also have the opportunity to mentor Applicant Members. Within this category of membership are three levels: Silver, Gold, and Platinum. The criteria for each of these levels are detailed in the next section.

Friend of SFC Membership. Friend of SFC membership is conveyed to those individuals and students who pay appropriate membership dues and are committed to furthering the Sustainable Furniture Council mission to promote sustainability. Friends of SFC receive an SFC calendar and are listed on the web site of the Sustainable Furniture Council.

Levels of Exemplary Membership

Three levels of membership exist within the Exemplary Membership Category. These manufacturers and retailers meet the standards outlined below. Requirements for retailers are based on percentage of inventory which meets the designated criteria for membership.

Retailers may also publish the designation achieved by the supplier of a certain product if it is higher than the retailer's own designation. For example: It is possible that a retailer who has achieved the Silver Level may also carry products lines manufactured by a Gold or Platinum level member. The retailer may then publish the fact that a Gold or Platinum Level member manufacturers the product.

The percentages and reports referenced below establish a baseline for gauging quantified energy and product improvements over time. All data on product inventory and energy use (for the Carbon Footprint report) can be determined through existing company data including utility bills. We require that Performance and Certification standards must address these key aspects in order to be approved by SFC. Applicants not participating in an accepted certification system must demonstrate performance in all key areas in order to be accepted as "equivalent".

Silver

- Show that 15-25% of wood products (based on percentage of inventory) are FSC certified or a demonstrated equivalent.
- Show that 1-25% of products using materials other than wood (based on percentage of inventory) are made with recycled or bio-based materials.
- Have in place a Social Equity Code of Conduct for suppliers (such as the one outlined in Annex D)
- Submit a report on their Carbon Footprint detailing the Baseline Inventory thermal and electrical usage of their physical plant.
- Be eligible for 5 points from the Optional Credit Table (see Annex E)
- Show that supply chain has been impacted with improvement

For Retailers:

- At least 15% of home furnishings products sold originate from manufacturers known to produce sustainable product.
- Be responsible for at least 1 educational or promotional event per quarter

Gold

- Show that 25-50% of wood products (based on percentage of inventory) are FSC certified, or a demonstrated equivalent.
- Show that 25-50% of products using materials other than wood (based on percentage of inventory) are made with recycled or bio-based materials.
- Have in place a Social Equity Code of Conduct for suppliers (see Annex B)
- Submit a report on their Carbon Footprint detailing the Baseline Inventory thermal and electrical usage of their physical plant.
- Submit an ISO 14025 Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), or equivalent, for at least one product platform or actual supplier data are provided
- Be eligible for 10 points from the Optional Credit Table
- Show that supply chain has been impacted with improvement

For Retailers:

- At least 25% of home furnishings products sold originate from manufacturers known to produce sustainable product.
- Be responsible for at least 1 educational event per month

Platinum

- SMART Sustainable Furniture Certification or California Gold for Carpet (or equivalent) allowing four optional levels of achievement based on credits earned, that is, the Silver and Gold requirements above, and Optional Credit Requirements below in Table 1.
- Show that supply chain has been impacted with improvement

For Retailers:

- At least 50% of home furnishings products sold originate from manufacturers known to produce sustainable product.
- Be responsible for ... educational events per x



Sustainable Furniture Council Corporate Membership Application Questionnaire 2008

Members' applications are stored on line in our database and available to the general public. All proprietary information is kept confidential

We feel strongly about being guardians of our mission and are not willing to accept members who are not seriously committed to the principles of sustainability or those who do not demonstrate continuous improvement in their own practices from year to year. We are, however, equally committed to helping companies gain a better understanding of what comprises sustainability within the home furnishings industry and giving them the tools to gain membership.

Please send this application and a check for the \$250 application fee to:

** Please note, Individual and Student members do not need to fill out a membership application or pay an application fee. They need only provide their name, address, and student status, and dues, of \$125 or \$25.

Sustainable Furniture Council
PO Box 205
Chapel Hill NC 27514

Company name:

or

Individual member name:

Student: ___ Yes ___ No

Address:

City:

Telephone/fax

Email:

website:

Primary contact:

Business activity:

___ manufacturer

___ designer

___ ngo

___ retailer

___ architect

___ other (please list: _____)

___ trade association

___ media

People (Social Equity)

- Do you pay a living wage?
- Do you have a supplier code of conduct? If so please attach.
- What measures are you taking to verify that your suppliers provide a safe and healthy work environment?

Planet (Environmental)

- Have you adopted measures to mitigate your impact on climate change?
- Do you know how to calculate your carbon footprint?
- What measures are you taking to reduce your conventional energy consumption? What is your plan to make any further reductions?
- Have you ever contracted an engineer or specialist to determine how to make your facility(s) more energy efficient? If so, estimate the percentage of total energy cost savings on an annual basis.
- Do you offer services to eliminate transportation-packaging waste? For example: blanket-wrap, carton return or recycling services.
- Are you conducting educational training around irreversible dangerous climate change within your operation and in the broader community?
- What questions do you ask your suppliers to understand their impact on irreversible climate change?
- Do you use a tree-free approach to all necessary written documents processed at your facility?
- What percentage of your product comes from within a 500 mile radius of your manufacturing facility or distribution point?

___0-25% ___25-50% ___50%

- Do you have a product reclamation program or do you have guidelines for recycling or reuse of your products?

- What materials that you consider environmentally friendly do you have in your line of products?
- What measures are you taking to assure your wood or alternative wood fibers are coming from legally harvested forest source?
- Have you contracted to have a LCA, Life Cycle Assessment, done on your products?
- Do you have established guidelines for product design that minimizes material waste, reuses components or contains recycled content, eliminates unsustainable virgin materials, and that allows for recyclability at the end of active product use? If not, would you be interested in getting assistance?
- What 3rd party certifications do you have for your product lines?

Profits (Economic)

- Please attach your company's public statement regarding your position on sustainability. How are you implementing this statement in your operations?
- What has motivated your interest in sustainability? Please list your key inspirations.

Legally Binding Certification (from SMART. Reproduced with permission)

The applicant must sign one of the optional certifications below attesting that the information submitted in this application is truthful and not misleading and that the certification is publicly available on the applicant's web site. This documentation may include any accurate product information useful for purchasers and specifiers including marketing and sales information. Use of this certification allows the Council to include many more entities from the furniture industry, improves diligence in applications, and greatly facilitates SFC's important verification process.

1. Express Warranty or Equivalent Option. Furniture suppliers, retailers and manufacturers adhering to this standard expressly warrant in this certification:

"The furniture vendor/manufacturer expressly warrants as part of its purchase agreement, that the data and responses to the information requests of this standard are accurate and reliable to the best of the building product vendor's/manufacturer's knowledge."

Name & Title of Company Representative

Date

Address

Phone & Email

This express warranty is a general requirement for adherence to this standard; this warranty and its documentation will be publicly available and placed on the applicant's or a third party's web site.

2. Equivalent Option. An equivalent option can be used satisfying this certification, in lieu of providing the express warranty above for general adherence to this standard. To do this, the furniture supplier, manufacturer or retailer must certify in writing below that their communications regarding this standard and applicable sections, comply with the Federal Trade Commission *Environmental Marketing Guides* at 16 C.F.R. Part 260 (1998) for accurate, reliable, and documented communications: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/grnrule/guides980427.htm>.

This certification must also state that "both the express and implied meaning of the certification about the data, responses to information, and provisions of the standard, is reasonable and based on competent and reliable scientific evidence prepared by qualified professionals in the relevant area, using procedures to produce accurate and reliable results."

Name & Title of Company Representative

Date

Address

Phone & Email

See 16 C.F.R. § 260.5. Further, such certification and its documentation will be publicly available and placed on the applicant's or third party's web site.

Annex A

Sustainable Furniture Council Membership Benefits

2008 SFC Member benefits include:

- Improved global environment and public health
- Peer support for your commitment to make a difference to sustainability
- Being recognized as an industry leader for sustainability
- Use of the logo in your marketing materials
- Brand differentiation
- Increased value for your brand
- Increased share value
- Link from SFC website to your website
- Regular ads in Home Furnishings Business, Furniture World, & periodic ads in other publications
- For manufacturers and wholesale distributors, discounted rates and special positioning at trade shows
- For retailers, templates to use for dynamic and attractive in-store events promoting sustainability and sales
- Discounted advertising rates on the PBS-TV show “For Your Home”
- Discounted rates on the annual PaTS eco-tour
- Excellent educational seminars at trade shows
- Preferential rates at conferences, such as the Carbon Footprint on in Chicago earlier this month
- Advertising opportunity with BlogHer
- A poster of the logo, ready to display

Annex B

Action Plan for Improvement

Drawing from your answers to our questionnaire and from the Optional Credits Table in Annex E, please give us a sketch of your action plan for improvement in 2008. Bear in mind that we are looking for time-bound and measurable concepts.

For 2008 your plan must include improvements in the wood area. (If you do not buy, make, or sell wood products, we require that you show improvement through use of your primary material/product line.)

We ask you to be as specific as possible in describing your goals and the actions you will take to achieve them. Your plan should include reference to

1. Energy Consumption. Please include the amount of energy savings you are trying to achieve.
2. How You Will Manage Your Primary Material to a More Sustainable Direction. If you use wood, outline how you will ensure it is legally and sustainably harvested.
3. Education and Promotion. Outline your plan for getting the message on your commitment to the planet and SFC to your partners and employees.

Annex C
Sustainable Furniture Council Logo Use Guidelines
September 2007

These guidelines relate to all communications by SFC members concerning their participation in the SFC.

It is essential to the long-term credibility of the SFC, that any claims are accurate and verifiable.

The following guidelines clearly define the respective roles of SFC management / staff and SFC members with regard to their external communication, and are intended to ensure that all claims will be “verifiable, accurate and not misleading”.

Member companies shall use the SFC logo in a manner that demonstrates commitment to the SFC mission of promoting sustainability and stewardship. There shall not be any implicit effort to use the SFC logo to endorse any environmental claims that are not accurate and verifiable.

Use of SFC Logo

The right to use the SFC logo is automatically granted to any corporate member who has been accepted into membership.

SFC members are encouraged to use the SFC Logo, and reference their membership status in marketing campaigns, advertising, B2B correspondence, and educational efforts. However, SFC members are not permitted to use the SFC logo as part of their trade names.

SFC members may not use the SFC logo on-product, nor can they refer to their SFC membership through any on-product claims. In short, communication of membership status is strictly limited to off-product statements and promotional material.

Copies of the current membership agreement between the SFC and the member company must be publicly available to illustrate the nature of their commitment.

Any questions about logo use should be referred to Susan Inglis, 919 967 1762 or susan@sustainablefurniturecouncil.org

Annex D

Social Equity Code of Conduct

(source: adapted from Global Reporting Initiative)

(from SMART Sustainable Building Product Standard, reproduced with permission)

NOTE: in place of to these points, a sealed 3rd party audit is accepted

People

Labor practices and decent work

- Breakdown of workforce, employment type, employment contract workforce retained vs. temporary workforce.
- Net employment creation, turnover
- Employee benefits, beyond those legally mandated
- Recording and notification of occupational accidents, injuries, illnesses and disease.
- Description of policies and procedures dealing with all aspects of HR relevant to operations including monitoring mechanisms and results.

Human Rights

- Description of policies and procedures to evaluate and address human rights performance within the supply chain and contractors, including monitoring systems and results.
- Description of policy and procedures excluding child labor including monitoring systems and results.

Society/Community

- Policies to manage impacts on communities in areas affected by activities as well as description of procedures to address this issue, including monitoring systems and results.

Annex E
Optional Credits Table

OPTIONAL CREDITS	
Optional credits can be used to achieve point requirements for Silver (5) and Gold (10) Exemplary Membership. These credits are already incorporated in Platinum requirements with four separate levels of recognition based on credits achieved.	
Credit	Points
Social Equity. An independent 3 rd party audited Social Equity Supplier Code of Conduct for percent of suppliers. See Table 2 below.	15%: 1 50%: 2 100%: 3
Social Equity. Provide a Living Wage for percent of employees.	75%: 1 100%: 2
Innovation. Innovation credits must be applied for and approved and are submitted by applicants to address topics that will further the promotion of Sustainable Furniture.	1-4
Tree Free Approach. Do you use a <u>tree-free approach</u> to all necessary written documents processed at your facility, i.e., limiting use of paper documents unless necessary? Have you adopted this into a written policy?	1
Using Local Materials. What percentage of your product comes from within a 500 mile radius of your manufacturing facility or distribution point?	25%: 1 50%: 2 75%: 3
Sustainable Furniture Product Transaction Disclosures – Manufacturer shall publically disclose the percent (%) on US dollar basis, of Silver, Gold or Platinum Exemplary requirements above for furniture products purchased, made and sold.	3
Climate Change. Are you conducting educational training around dangerous climate change within your operation and further afield? What questions do you ask your suppliers to understand their impact on dangerous climate change?	1
Climate Change. Manufacturing facility Green-e renewable power use or conventional energy reductions from the baseline established in Silver and Gold Exemplary requirements.	1%: 2 15%: 5 50%+: 10
Climate Change. Supplier facilities' Green-e renewable power use or conventional energy reductions from the baseline established in Silver and Gold requirements.	1%: 2 15%: 5 50%+: 15
Reuse & End of Life Management. Manufacturer shall provide percent Reclamation/Reuse and calculate percent rate as follows: Reclamation-Reuse Rate= $\frac{\text{kg of all product reclaimed (annually)}}{\text{kg of annual production of product certified Exemplary}}$	Operable System: 3 1%: 4 15%: 5 50%+: 10
Cradle To Cradle	
Minimize Indoor VOC Emissions - The maximum concentration for any chemical emitted at 96 hours in emissions tests (following a ten-day conditioning period), shall not result in a modeled indoor air concentration greater than ½ the chronic reference exposure level (CREL) established by California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), except formaldehyde which shall not exceed ½ the OEHHA indoor chronic reference exposure level (REL). Testing shall be in accordance with <u>CA/DHS/EHLB/R-174</u> , or equivalent. - <i>Standard Practice for the Testing of Volatile Organic Emissions from Various Sources Using Small-Scale Environmental Chambers.</i> Note: <i>GREENGUARD is equivalent to these requirements pursuant to approval from the State of California.</i>	Percent reductions for manufacturer's products: 50%: 1

	100%: 2
<p>Minimize Indoor Carcinogenic VOC Emissions – Carcinogenic or reproductive toxicant VOCs shall not be emitted from products at levels above the Safe Exposure Levels (SELs). SELs as defined in section 8, and testing, shall be in accordance with <u>CA/DHS/EHLB/R-174</u>.</p> <p>The following formaldehyde limit for wood does not affect the 1350 limit of 4 ppb in this section for non-wood building products. For formaldehyde in certified composite wood products pursuant to Exemplary requirements, the raw composite wood in the certified product must meet the Composite Panel Association's (CPA) EPP Spec CPA 1-02 requiring that formaldehyde emissions meet <u>ANSI standards A208.1 & A208.2</u>. Documentation for certifying to CPA's spec must be provided.</p> <p>For all finished wood building products certified pursuant to exemplary requirements, the formaldehyde limit must be no greater than 27 ppb which is the level in <u>California Section 1350 Special Environmental Requirements Sec. 1.3 B</u>.</p>	<p>Percent reductions for manufacturer's products:</p> <p>50%: 2 100%: 5</p>
<p>Minimize Indoor Formaldehyde Emissions – The maximum concentration for formaldehyde emitted at 96 hours in emissions tests (following a ten-day conditioning period), shall not result in a modeled indoor air concentration greater than ½ the chronic reference exposure level (CREL) established by California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). Testing shall be in accordance with <u>CA/DHS/EHLB/R-174</u>.</p>	5
<p>Reducing Toxic & Other Air, Water & Waste Pollutants: Input Stockholm Chemicals – Document that Stockholm Convention Persistent Organic Pollutants are not present at 0.1% or greater in the product.</p>	4
<p>Reducing Toxic & Other Air, Water & Waste Pollutants: Supply Chain Stockholm Chemicals - identify all supply chain material & process inputs present at 1% (10 parts per thousand), including Stockholm Convention Persistent Organic Pollutants.</p>	2
<p>Foam. 20% of foam is natural latex, or recycled, or recycled poly, or biobased. No PBDE.</p>	1
<p>Foam. 75% foam is natural latex, or recycled, or recycled poly, or biobased that is organically produced with EPA/Purdue University Best Management Practices consistent with SMART. No PBDE.</p>	2
<p>Foam. 100% foam is natural latex, or recycled, or recycled poly, or biobased that is organically produced with EPA/Purdue University Best Management Practices consistent with SMART. No PBDE.</p>	3
<p>Organic Furniture Products. 20% of product is certified organic.</p>	1
<p>Organic Furniture Products. 75% of product is certified organic with EPA/Purdue University Best Management Practices.</p>	2
<p>Organic Furniture Products. 100% of product is certified organic with EPA/Purdue University Best Management Practices.</p>	3
<p>Textiles. OEKOTEX certification</p>	3
<p>Packaging. Do you offer services to eliminate transportation packaging waste? For example: blanket-wrap, carton return or recycling services.</p>	1
<p>Marketing. Link from corporate site to SFC website</p>	1

Annex D DEFINITIONS AND TERMS

ANSI standards A208.1 & A208.2 - Recommended by EPA at www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/formald2.html. CPA 1-02 requires the formaldehyde limits applying only to raw particle Board and raw medium density fiberboard (MDF) before assembled into finished product of: 0.30 ppm for industrial products, 0.20 ppm for building products, 0.30 ppm for Medium Density Fiberboard MDF.

CA/DHS/EHLB/R-174 - Standard Practice for the Testing of Volatile Organic Emissions from Various Sources Using Small-Scale Environmental Chambers.

California Section 1350 Special Environmental Requirements Sec. 1.3 B. This level is determined so not to penalize wood as a product and takes into account documented approximate 30 ppb natural background levels of formaldehyde in wood by the Australasia Plywood Association <http://www.plywoodassn.com.au/pdf/form%202.pdf>, and provides a 3 ppb margin of safety. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in 2004 reclassified formaldehyde from a probable to a known carcinogen.

Cradle-to-Cradle™ Certification- www.mbd.com. Intensive product certification for environmentally-intelligent design that serves as a nutrient for the earth or a technological nutrient at the end of the product life.

FSC- Forest Stewardship Council- www.fsc.org. An international organization promoting responsible stewardship of the world's forests through certificates for forest management and chain of custody administered by third party auditors.

GREENGUARD Environmental Institute- www.greenguard.org. Improving public health and quality of life through programs that improve indoor air. In accordance with that mission, GEI currently has three third-party certification programs.

Green e-Power. www.green-e.org. An independent renewable energy certification and verification program allowing consumers to quickly identify environmentally superior energy options, also used by businesses to communicate the purchase and/or generation of certified renewable energy. See also <http://www.resource-solutions.org/Green-epage.htm>

ISO 14001 – <http://www.iso.org/iso/en/iso9000-14000/understand/inbrief.html> - “ISO (International Standard Organization) 14001 gives the requirements for an environmental management system (EMS), which is a tool for helping organizations to implement good environmental practice and to aim for continual improvement of their environmental performance.” For example, the ISO 14000 family of standards addresses areas like greenhouse gas accounting and life cycle analysis.

LEED- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. www.usgbc.org. Promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality.

Life Cycle Assessment - LCA is one of the first steps needed for sustainable product certification to establish the baseline for quantified environmental improvements and is required by FTC Environmental

Marketing Guides and Attorney General Green Guides for any broad environmental claim, i.e., environmentally friendly, green, environmentally preferable or sustainable. These requirements are based on truth in advertising law. Consumers believe these products are environmentally beneficial in all respects and thus the only accepted, standardized way of doing this is by conducting an ISO Compliant LCA. Accordingly, LCA or actual supplier environmental data are required for sustainable product certification on a product platform basis.

LCA identifies 12 environmental benefit / impacts of products for all product stages: extraction, transportation, use, and final disposition or reuse. These 12 impacts are: Global Warming, Acidification, Ozone Depletion, Eutrophication, Photochemical Smog, Human Health, Ecological Toxicity, Fossil Fuel Depletion, Habitat Alteration, Criteria Air Pollutants, Water Intake, Solid and Hazardous Waste. Also required are Pollutant Flows (Flue Gas and Wastewater); Recovered Matter; Other Air Emissions; Other Water Effluents.

OEKOTEX - <http://www.oeko-tex.com/> - sets globally uniform test criteria for safe use of chemicals in textiles, tests textiles during and after manufacturing process, certifies textiles as ecologically safe for humans.

Reuse - Reuse is an important part of a product's life and prevents harmful incineration or landfilling. Reuse substantially reduces climate pollution, saves energy, and eliminates the product extraction stage, and can lessen impacts from the manufacturing stage.

SMART Sustainable Furniture Certification or California Gold for Carpet - SMART & California Gold are transparent, consensus, quantified sustainable furniture and carpet standards developed through an American National Standards Institute Accredited Process. They have been approved for LEED credit, are part of the American Institute of Architects 2015 Imperative to Stop Irreversible Dangerous Climate Change, and part of the Capital Markets Partnership requirements for sustainable mortgage backed securities; California Gold Carpet Standard has been adopted by the State for all government purchasing. Sustainable furniture products and carpet have been certified. See: <http://mts.sustainableproducts.com/smartstandards.html>.

Some of requirements of SMART Sustainable Furniture Certification are:

Show that 100% of wood products (based on percentage of inventory) are FSC certified or a demonstrated equivalent.

- Show that 76-100% of products using materials other than wood (based on percentage of inventory) are made with recycled or bio-based materials.
- Based on an ISO 14025 Compliant LCA (Life Cycle Assessment) or actual data.
- Credit for pollution reductions from an established baseline for both the manufacturing and supplier facilities.
- Have in place an independent 3rd party audited manufacturer and supplier social equity code of conduct for all suppliers.
- Toxic Stockholm Chemical elimination for manufacturers and suppliers as specified by international treaty
- VOC and carcinogenic VOC emission reductions
- Toxic and other air, water and waste pollution reductions

Toxic Stockholm Chemical The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, (signed in Stockholm, May 23, 2001) is intended to eliminate or restrict the production, use and/or release of twelve chemicals that, due to their persistence in the environment, can affect human health throughout the globe, regardless of the location of their use. The twelve chemicals include; pesticides (Aldrin, Chlordane, DDT, Heptachlor, Hexachlorobenzene, Dieldrin, Mirex, Toxaphene), industrial products (PCBs, polychlorinated biphenyls) and byproducts, i.e., unintentionally formed chemicals (polychlorinated dioxins and furans).

Objective Criteria for SFC Standards and Equivalency – Performance and Certification standards must address these key aspects in order to be approved by SFC. Applicants not participating in an accepted certification system must demonstrate performance in all key areas in order to be accepted as “equivalent”,

1. Transparent process, decision making and communication of results
2. Consensus process, due process notice and opportunity to be heard, and voting including consultation and stakeholder engagement
3. Third party, objective certification including full transparency
4. Independent global auditing including objective review and transparent results
5. Consistency with Approved SFC Board Priorities
6. Accuracy in communications including labeling that's not misleading. Product must be able to be traced back to source forest and associated practices in order to carry label of sustainable performance.
7. Integration of community perspectives, social equity, human rights including indigenous peoples voices where their land and rights are effected

As our industry uses so much wood, we have these specific criteria for wood:

- Prohibit conversion of natural forest to plantations, thereby damaging ecosystems and undermining biodiversity
- Prohibit large-scale harvesting of old-growth forests and the loss of other high conservation value forests
- Contain effective rules for governing and labeling non-certified product components. All certification systems allow products that are less than 100% certified, but effective systems must have clear rules outlawing the use of wood from the worst forest practices.
No GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms)
- No allowance for operations that drive armed conflict or threaten local / regional stability
- No allowance for operations managed by military entities or involved in human right violations
- Acceptable standards for chain of custody (CoC) are those that:
 - Require verification of geographic origin of the wood or non-wood fibre
 - Require independent verification of the accuracy of documentation provided by suppliers
 - Require a direct connection between the labeled products and the certified forests
 - Preclude wood or non-wood fibre from all types of illegal forest management, logging and trade practices
 - Provide clear CoC from forest to point of sale (to make sure that “good” wood is not mixed with other wood of dubious origin).