

Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) Indoor Advantage™ and Indoor Advantage Gold

SCS Indoor Advantage

The VOC criteria for the Indoor Advantage certification are based on emission criteria established in the Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturer's Association (BIFMA) Standard for Low-Emitting Office Furniture Systems and Seating (ANSI/BIFMA X7.1) and the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) criteria EQ4.5 (furniture and seating).



SCS Indoor Advantage Gold

Indoor Advantage Gold is founded on the California Section 01350 Specification, the only health-based building material specification for indoor air quality. The screening limits for emissions under Section 01350 are based on the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's (OEHHA) Chronic Reference Exposure Levels (CRELS). CRELS are concentrations below which adverse health effects are not likely to occur from a long-term exposure to hazardous airborne substances.



History of the SCS Indoor Advantage Program

Companies frequently make claims about the environmental or health benefits of their products. Third-party certification programs—when they are based on sound scientific criteria and transparent and consistent procedures—offer a way to distinguish environmental claims.

Scientific Certification Systems created its first indoor air quality standard, SCS-EC10, in 2004. The EC10 standard closely adhered to the requirements of the California Collaborative of High Performance Schools (CHPS) and to California Special Environmental Requirements Specification 01350. Many of the requirements of the International Organization of Standards (ISO) 9001-2000 Quality Management Systems for Process and Quality Control were also incorporated into the EC10 Standard.

In 2006, the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) announced that the BIFMA Furniture Emission Standards would qualify for environmental quality credits under its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program. Also in 2006, the State of California Department of General Services adopted an indoor air quality specification for open panel office furniture.

SCS responded to these changes by incorporating both the BIFMA and new California criteria into its EC10 indoor air quality standard. The revised standard, SCS-EC10.2, was published in May of 2007 and became the basis for the SCS Indoor Advantage certification program. Just a few months later, in September of 2007, the BIFMA Furniture Emissions Standards received formal endorsement by the American National Standard Institute (ANSI).

Visit Scientific Certification Systems' website to learn more about Indoor Advantage and other certification programs.

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