

PURCHASE DESCRIPTION

PERFORMANCE TEST REQUIREMENTS FOR UPHOLSTERED SEATING

Upholstered seating is intended for a variety of Government uses and must meet the applicable requirements herein. Copies of the referenced documents may be obtained from the issuing organizations at the addresses given in the solicitation.

Performance Test Requirements.

“Worst case” (see below) sofas (3-seat and 2-seat), recliners and sleep sofas/chairs offered by current contractors or new offerors for the first time must be tested in accordance with, and comply with all applicable sections of, EITHER one of the following:

(1) Upholstered Furniture Test Method FNAE-80-214A

OR

(2) ANSI/BIFMA X5.4

**Sleep sofas and recliners must also be tested in accordance with paragraphs 7.7 and 7.8, respectively, of FNAE-80-214A.

FNAE-80-214A is a GSA test method that allows customers to select products meeting their needs based on the three-tier performance rating system utilized in the method. ANSI/BIFMA X5.4 is a minimum industry testing standard for safety and performance of lounge seating.

The contractor is responsible for conducting all applicable performance test requirements on the units being offered. The contractor may use his own or any other test lab capable of performing the tests. Test reports shall be signed and dated by the person performing the tests and shall be on the letterhead of the company/laboratory performing the tests. The Government reserves the right to witness any tests where such inspections are deemed necessary to assure that the upholstered items meet all test requirements.

Within each different series or grouping being offered, tests shall be performed on the “worst case” unit which is generally the item having the greatest span between legs. This is normally a 3-seat sofa, however, if the design includes one or more interior support legs (i.e., a leg or legs other than those at the four corners of the frame), then the 2-seat sofa would likely have the greatest span between legs. If all multi-seat items in a series or grouping have one or more interior legs, then test the item having the largest overall length. All items within the same sofa/loveseat/chair series or grouping

must have the same design and construction. Tests shall also be performed on offered dual-purpose (seating/sleeping) units and recliners.

Representative testing. To avoid duplicative testing on some items where the construction details are evidently the same, the test results for one item may be acceptable to represent one or more other items (**NOTE:** Test results for non-sleep sofas **cannot** represent sleep sofas and vice versa). However, similarity of construction must be evaluated by carefully comparing construction details of the tested item and item(s) to be represented by the tested item. The following details, as a minimum, should be considered in the comparison:

1. Types of materials (e.g., solid hardwood, hardwood veneer core plywood, steel, aluminum, combination of these materials) used in the frame;
2. Dimensions, shape, location and joinery of frame members;
3. Types of spring/support systems (e.g., sinuous, coil, webbing) used for the seat and back;
4. Length, spacing and gauge (as applicable) of springs;
5. Design, material, dimensions and method of attachment of legs;
6. T-cushion arm vs. full depth arm;
7. Loose seat and/or back vs. tight seat and/or back;
8. Make/model of the mechanism used for recliners and sleepers. Generally the largest size of each different model of a given make would require testing.

Certification requirements. Evidence of compliance with the above test requirements shall be provided as specified in “Certification Requirements” under “General Technical Requirements” in the “Technical Requirements” document of the solicitation.

Performance retesting requirements.

All models under contract shall be retested for performance in accordance with the provisions in the Product Changes, Retesting, and Recertification Requirements section in the “Technical Requirements” document of the solicitation. The following exception to those provisions applies when the original testing was performed in accordance with method **FNAE-80-214A**:

- If no product changes are incorporated during the period and/or if the test method is not revised, the retesting interval is ten (10) years from the date of the original test reports.

A new certification shall be submitted to the GSA contracting officer. In situations where a number of re-tests are due at approximately the same time, reasonable contractor proposals for a phased retesting plan will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Contract Brochure Requirements.

All offerors awarded a contract for sofas, recliners and sleep sofas/chairs, who test in accordance with FNAE-80-214A, shall identify each model approved by GSA, in the brochures and price lists by stating: “This unit meets performance Service Level _____ (light, medium, heavy) in accordance with GSA Purchase Description FNAE-80-214A”.

If an offeror chooses to test in accordance with ANSI/BIFMA X5.4, each model approved by GSA shall be identified in the brochures and price lists by stating: “This unit meets minimum safety and performance test requirements of ANSI/BIFMA X5.4.”