

Furniture Industry Sustainability Programme (FISP)



Developing and demonstrating your sustainability credentials



Prioritising sustainability is becoming ever more essential to success in the furniture industry. Sales depend on customers seeing that sustainability is at the heart of the manufacturer's operations, whilst tenders increasingly require proof that key environmental, social and economic standards are being met and chain of custody systems are in place.

FISP is designed to ensure that each individual client organisation successfully effects the changes necessary to achieve its individual business aims: the service is tailored to your needs, whatever stage you are at on the road to excellence.

Excellence is identified through a comprehensive audit in the first instance and, as constant improvement is essential, thereafter through annual audits by FIRA. This certification demonstrates to the world that you are taking your environmental and corporate social responsibilities seriously, thus clearly differentiating your business from that of your competitors and serving as a powerful and highly valuable marketing tool.

What can FISP do for your business?

Since its launch in 2006, FISP has rapidly become established as the industry forum on all environmental and sustainable issues. These issues relate to all aspects of the industry's business from purchasing and procurement right through to end of product life, including social, ethical and employment concerns as well as waste, energy and emissions.

BENEFITS

Clearly demonstrates your organisation's sustainability credentials

Improves your competitiveness through production efficiencies and cost savings

Differentiates your company and its products from competitors

Inspires customer confidence through independent endorsement

FISP credentials meet requirements for tenders and retail specifications

Serves as a powerful and highly valuable marketing tool

"FISP membership opened our eyes to the extra responsibilities sustainability certification gave Senator, over those covered by the ISO 14001 Environmental Standard. It provided the catalyst for us to completely re-examine and re-think those activities which affect sustainability in its many wider forms."

**Paul Clarke, Commercial Director,
Senator International Ltd**



Environment • Ergonomics • Lean Technology • Technical Experts

HOW FISP WORKS

All organisations within the furniture industry are eligible for FISP membership.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Organisations requiring time and support to improve their sustainability may become associate members of FISP. Their membership subscription entitles them to a package of support (by way of workbooks, comprehensive printed materials and access to an advice line). In addition, FIRA can provide whatever consultancy services their business needs to work towards certification. Associate members must achieve certification within two years.

CERTIFICATION

When new or associate members are ready to apply for certification, FIRA conducts an extensive audit to establish their compliance with exacting sustainability criteria. Success leads to FISP certification and eligibility for full membership.

FULL MEMBERSHIP

Full membership is open to organisations which have successfully achieved FISP certification. It differentiates you from your competition and can be used as a powerful marketing tool.

Full members receive an ongoing FISP support service and must complete an annual survey to prove their ongoing commitment to improving sustainability.

For further details about the scheme please contact Customer Services on 01438 777 700 or email info@fira.co.uk

The scope of FISP

The scope of FISP is wider than that of the ISO 14001 Environmental Standard. All organisations seeking FISP certification, whether they are manufacturers, retailers, specifiers or suppliers, must demonstrate to FIRA that:

- They have a fully documented environmental policy statement and that this is fully implemented in the daily operation of their business
- They comply fully with all environmental and Health & Safety legislation

Organisations must also demonstrate that they meet certain standards with regard to key environmental and social and economic issues. Different issues have different relevance for different types of business, so FISP offers a range (listed below) from which a minimum of eight must be selected. Organisations will be audited on their chosen topics, at least five of which must be environmental and at least three social and economic.

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Environmental management systems
- Waste management
- Energy management
- Packaging
- Transport
- Procurement policies
- Sustainable timber purchasing
- Emissions
- End of product life

SOCIAL & ECONOMIC

- Community relations and charity work
- Nuisance issues
- Education and training
- Employment
- Ethical issues
- Competitiveness

The process of preparation for the audit is fully supported by FIRA consultants, who will provide as much or as little guidance and support (in addition to the standard membership package) as your organisation requires.

Once audited and successfully certified, all full members continue to be regularly audited and must complete a detailed survey every year in order to demonstrate ongoing commitment. The results of this survey are published as a report which provides invaluable advice, information and also opportunities to benchmark your performance. This document also serves as an independent assessment and endorsement of your credentials which can be presented to customers.

THE ORGANISATIONS BEHIND FISP

FISP was initially developed by FIRA in conjunction with partners from across the furniture industry. A list of these partners can be viewed on our website www.fira.co.uk

Testing • Certification • Consultancy • Training • Equipment • Membership

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