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## **THE SINGAPORE FURNITURE INDUSTRIES COUNCIL (SFIC) SETS THE STANDARD FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN LIVING SOLUTIONS THROUGH ITS INITIATIVES**

The Singapore Furniture Industries Council (SFIC) is a driving force in promoting sustainability within the furniture industry. This August, SFIC launches its Sustainability Furniture Mark (SFM), setting a benchmark for sustainability in the furniture industry.

### **SFIC's Commitment to Sustainability**

As consumption patterns shift and consumers' sustainability awareness increases, SFIC is dedicated to empowering its members with the tools and resources needed to promote sustainable practices to meet consumer demands and enhance the competitiveness of our members globally.

With the support of Enterprise Singapore, SFIC launched the Furniture Sustainability Programme in 2022 to drive industry-wide adoption of safer and more sustainable practices in 3 key areas – Setting the Benchmark for Sustainable Practices, Building Capability for a Sustainable Future, and Thought Leadership: Building a Sustainable Future, Together.

## Setting the Benchmark for Sustainable Practices

As part of the Furniture Sustainability Programme, we launched the SFIC Sustainability Furniture Mark (SFM) this August. The Mark will establish benchmarks for Sustainability in the furniture industry.

In the first year, SFM will focus on low formaldehyde emissions, a crucial aspect of healthy indoor air quality. To qualify, companies must submit their sustainable products for a thorough assessment, and those meeting the criteria will be recognised as early adopters in furniture sustainability.

To date, 12 companies have been awarded the SFM for their products that have met the stringent low formaldehyde emission criteria. Two companies that have their products recognised under this initiative are Commune Lifestyle Pte Ltd and Pepperwall Pte Ltd.

- **Commune Lifestyle Pte Ltd** is a homegrown furniture design and lifestyle company known for its innovative and sustainable designs. Their products are crafted with eco-conscious wood and timber sourced from sustainable forests in the USA, Asia, and Europe.
- **Pepperwall Pte Ltd** is a leading curator of wall coverings and acoustic panels. In partnership with Speco Pte Ltd, a smart hygiene company with solutions to eliminate viruses and bacteria, they have developed acoustics panels designed to remove formaldehyde and VOCs from enclosed spaces, promoting healthier indoor environments.

## **Building Capability for a Sustainable Future**

Another key area of focus is capability building, and we have developed many initiatives to support the industry such as the Sustainability Leaders Programme (SLP), transformational sustainability focused mission trips, learning journeys and Sustainability Leaders Recognition (SLR).

## **Thought Leadership: Building a Sustainable Future, Together**

SFIC has established itself as a thought leader for sustainability in the region by hosting its inaugural Sustainability Summit in 2023, attracting participants from across ASEAN and Japan. Building on this success, SFIC is gearing up for an even bigger Sustainability Summit in October 2024. The Summit will showcase a wider range of companies implementing leading sustainability practices.

As part of our Sustainability Leaders Programme (Advanced), SFIC conducted a comprehensive webinar to address the growing concerns about formaldehyde exposure in the furniture and furnishings industry. Additionally, SFIC commissioned a detailed white paper to provide valuable insights and recommendations for businesses seeking to implement sustainable practices and contribute to a more sustainable future. These resources offer practical guidance and actionable steps for businesses to reduce their environmental footprint and promote healthier living spaces.

## **Industry Call to Action**

"SFIC is committed to guiding the furniture industry towards a more sustainable future. The launch of the Sustainability Furniture Mark highlights our commitment to promoting low-formaldehyde products and solutions that prioritise health and

wellness. We encourage the industry and our members to adopt the SFM, to demonstrate their commitment to low formaldehyde emissions and gain recognition for their efforts, and collectively contribute to a responsible industry for generations to come." said Mr Phua Boon Huat, President, SFIC.

At SFIC, we are committed to working closely with our industry partners to create healthier, more sustainable living spaces for everyone. We aim to empower our members to adopt responsible practices that benefit both businesses and build a future where sustainable living is accessible to all.

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*Annex A – About SFIC Sustainability Furniture Mark (SFM)*

*Annex B – SFIC Capability Building Programmes*

*Annex C – SFIC Thought Leadership Initiatives*

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## **About SFIC**

The Singapore Furniture Industries Council (SFIC) is established since 1981 as the official representative body of Singapore's furniture and furnishings industry. It has a membership of over 350 companies, spanning across five key industry clusters: furniture manufacturers, interior fit-out specialists, retailers, designers and materials/components/services providers. Collectively, our industry players have a global footprint in over 80 countries to date.

As an aggregator and multiplier in the furniture ecosystem, the SFIC's vision is to position the Singapore furniture industry as the nexus of tomorrow's work-life integration for sustainable urban living.

SFIC's priority initiatives include internationalisation, design development, business innovation, digitalisation and sustainability to enable members to stay future-ready and competitive while upgrading enterprise and human capital capabilities within the industry. Nurturing the NexGen industry leaders under the SFIC Young Leaders Chapter is also of paramount importance.

SFIC's talent and training development arm is the SFIC Institute, which conducts a holistic range of courses, masterclasses, manpower placement programmes and consultancy services for the furniture ecosystem and built environment.

The SFIC also represents Singapore in the ASEAN Furniture Industries Council (AFIC), with the aim of further strengthening intra-ASEAN trade and its competitive advantage in the global market.

Visit [www.singaporefurniture.com](http://www.singaporefurniture.com) for more information.

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### **About Sustainability Furniture Mark (SFM)**

The SFM is an industry-initiated label to recognise SFIC members that have embarked on their sustainability journeys. In the first year, SFM will focus on recognising companies with certified low formaldehyde emitting products. Subsequently, SFIC plans to layer on other areas of sustainability such as reporting, use of sustainable materials and recycling. We will continue to support companies in their sustainability journey with programmes and training.

The SFM will need to be renewed annually. To ensure that the SFM is kept valid and up-to-date, the evaluation criteria might be updated periodically. Companies would be required to produce valid supporting certifications that meet these updated criteria during their renewal.

### **List of the 12 companies for SFIC Sustainability Furniture Mark**

<b>Name of Company</b>	<b>Type of Product(s) Certified</b>
Admira Pte Ltd	High Pressure Laminates
Calvary Carpentry Pte Ltd	Removable Decking System
Catalyste Pte Ltd	High Pressure Laminates
Commune Lifestyle Pte Ltd	Drawer Dresser And Storage Unit
EDL Pte Ltd	High Pressure Laminates
Evorich Holdings Pte Ltd	Eco-Friendly Vinyl Flooring Material
GreenLam Pte Ltd	High Pressure Laminates
IM Space Pte Ltd	System Furniture
Panelogue Pte Ltd	Engineered Wood
Panaplast Pte Ltd	High Pressure Laminates
Pepperwall Pte Ltd	Acoustics Panels
TAK Products & Services Pte Ltd	High Pressure Laminates

## **SFIC Capability Building Programmes**

- **Sustainability Leaders Programme (SLP):**  
The Sustainability Leaders Programme has enabled basic capability development for 87 furniture companies, covering topics like sustainability certifications and reporting, carbon management and the circular economy.
- **Transformational Mission Trips:**  
SFIC has successfully embarked on sustainability missions to Denmark in 2022 and Tokyo in 2023, enabling 19 furniture companies to learn from leading international practices and adapt their business models to capture new opportunities presented by the sustainability agenda.
- **Learning Journeys:**  
Learning journeys have equipped companies to understand how local brands leverage sustainability for a competitive edge and foster potential collaborative opportunities.
- **Sustainability Leaders Recognition (SLR):**  
The Sustainability Leaders Recognition acknowledges companies that have embarked on the sustainability journey in a holistic manner, as an integral part of their business mission. These companies have shown early achievements and are continually striving to improve. Through the SLR, SFIC aims to applaud and motivate these companies, as well as encourage others to start and step-up efforts.

Recognised practices include the embrace of sustainability into business operations, products and solutions that adhere to local and global standards.

The SLR initiative aims to continuously upgrade its standards each year, given the fast-moving arena of sustainability certification programmes and broader corporate sustainability.

## **SFIC Thought Leadership Initiatives**

- **SFIC Sustainability Summit:**

SFIC launched its inaugural Sustainability Summit in 2023, attracting 133 participants from across ASEAN and Japan. The success of this event has paved the way for a second Summit in 2024.

The Summit seeks to explore the transformative potential of circular economy practices in urban cities, emphasising creativity, sustainability and the critical role that disciplines such as architecture and furniture manufacturing play in fostering healthy and safe spaces.

It is aimed to:

- (a) Showcase current trends with regards to health and safety in the furniture and furnishing space eg. emission control, innovative materials, focus on low VOC emission products and processes.
- (b) Provide a networking platform for cross industries collaboration in the sustainability space with a focus on health and safety.
- (c) Showcase proven use cases to inspire and motivate the audience to embark on their own journeys.

- **Sustainability Leaders Programme (Advanced):**

SFIC commissioned a white paper that provides a comprehensive overview of formaldehyde, its effects on human health and the environment, and strategies for mitigating its use in the furniture and furnishings industry.

The report is divided into three main sections:



- (a) **Overview of Formaldehyde:** This section examines the current global landscape of formaldehyde use, consumer awareness, and its environmental impact.
  
- (b) **Mitigating the Effects of Formaldehyde:** This section explores strategies and measures that can be implemented to reduce formaldehyde emissions, including case studies of successful companies and recommendations for industry adoption.
  
- (c) **Global Regulatory Landscape:** This section provides a detailed overview of international regulations and standards related to formaldehyde emissions in furniture and furnishings, as well as guidance on certification processes.

This white paper serves as a valuable resource for industry members seeking to understand the risks associated with formaldehyde and implement strategies for creating healthier and more sustainable products.