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From: Ed Metzger/President/BioFit Engineered Products

RE: SEFA Lab-Grade Chair Cleaning Protocol

The Scientific Equipment and Furniture Association (SEFA) is an organization intently focused on helping users and specifiers of laboratory-grade furniture by setting industry standards that assure the proper selection and maintenance of high quality furniture that will result in years of life in the robust laboratory environment.

As co-chair of the Lab-Grade Seating committee we have been tasked with separating the features and benefits of laboratory chairs and stools vs. those whose primary functions are for use outside the lab. As we have entered a season in our world's history of new demands focused around cleanability and compatibility with disinfecting agents, the work we've been doing has taken on new importance and practicality.

In that light, SEFA has wisely chosen to share the Lab-Grade Seating Committee's Chair Cleaning Protocol with those who are facing new challenges amidst the battle with the COVID-19 virus pandemic. Many users are struggling with how to properly disinfect their lab and healthcare chairs and stools without damaging their investment in these quality tools for laboratory technicians and healthcare employees.

I hope the work we've done is especially meaningful for you and helps guide you with the years of knowledge our industry has gleaned on how to clean high performance ergonomic seating without affecting the components that will bring you years of meaningful support and use through this crisis, and beyond.

SEFA is here for you – we stand behind the world's efforts to save human life and engage scientists and healthcare professionals in the fight against disease and discovery of new and exciting technology. Please contact us if there is any other way we can help you.

Sincerely yours in better health,

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COVID-19 ALERT

SEFA Laboratory Grade Seating Cleaning Protocol

The Scientific Equipment and Furniture Association (SEFA) is a not-for-profit trade association whose Executive Members are among the world's leading manufacturers of laboratory furniture and equipment. SEFA was formed in 1988 and currently represents 170 companies from 24 countries.

SEFA's essential purpose is to promote the use of "Laboratory Grade" furniture, fixtures and equipment. Working through its various committees, SEFA develops Recommended Practices (consensus standards) to guide architects, lab-planners and end-users and to insure safer laboratory facilities.

Since its formation in the Spring of 2018, the Laboratory Grade Seating Committee, Co-chaired by Ed Metzger of BioFit and Kai Schuler of Interstuhl (BIMOS Division) has been actively working to develop a standard and testing protocols to address this essential laboratory equipment.

At this time, the standard is still in draft form, however the Committee has approved a "SEFA Lab-Grade Seating Cleaning Protocol" which will be included as an Appendix to the Standard when it is ultimately approved.

During this time of crisis we thought it might be beneficial to provide this cleaning protocol for laboratory seating to assist in maintaining a more sanitary environment.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact the SEFA offices (info@sefalabs.com) or your laboratory seating supplier.

Appendix

SEFA Lab Grade Seating Cleaning Protocol

1. *Dry-clean surfaces with a clean cloth to remove loose dirt/dust/organic material*
2. *Wet-clean surfaces with warm water and a mild detergent, scrubbing where necessary to remove stubborn dirt and contamination*
3. *Rinse surfaces with clean water and cloth – **do not use high pressure spray equipment** as this may force liquids into gaps and crevices where chair parts meet*
4. *Manually dry, or allow the area to dry completely*
5. *Apply disinfectant/cleaning solution at the recommended concentration for the appropriate contact time. **Do not apply solution at a rate higher than the recommended concentration and do not allow to contact for longer than the recommended contact time. Doing so may result in degradation of upholstery, plastic and rubber parts, or create conditions that will lead to corrosion of metal parts. These outcomes will result in early failure of chair parts and may negate the manufacturer's warranty.***
6. *Wet-clean surfaces with warm water and a mild detergent which is extremely important for surfaces that are susceptible to damage from the disinfectant/cleaner chemicals*
7. *Rinse the chair again with clean water/cloth*
8. *Manually dry, or allow the area to dry completely*
9. *In high risk areas, repeat steps 5 through 8 above with a wide spectrum disinfectant*

NOTES:

- *For proper cleaning, start the cleaning protocol from the top of the chair/stool and proceed to the bottom to assure any cleaning solutions and dirt/contamination are removed should they drip or fall to lower parts of the chair*
- ***Do not clean oil/grease from the shaft of height-adjustable gas springs or pneumatic pistons as this will interfere with their ability to work over time, and result in shortened lifetime or failure***

The SEFA recommended cleaning protocol should in no way conflict with any other stated cleaning process as defined by governmental or corporate regulations. It is, however, a recommended process to assure long-term wear of laboratory chairs and stools in these challenging environments.