

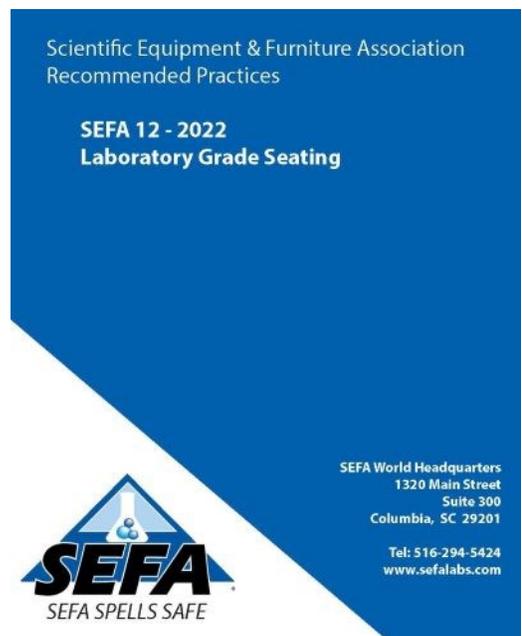
## SEFA 12-2022 – the global standard for Laboratory Grade Seating

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The Scientific Equipment and Furniture Association (SEFA) is pleased to announce that on November 9, 2022, its Board of Directors unanimously approved SEFA-12-2022 – the first ever Laboratory Grade Seating Standard. This document should be referenced when purchasing seating for use in laboratory environments. For a limited time, we are offering a complimentary download of the SEFA 12 document from the homepage of our website, [www.sefalabs.com](http://www.sefalabs.com). In the Spring 2023 we will be releasing a new edition of SEFA's Desk Reference which will include this standard. The Desk Reference may be purchased on the SEFA website. Independent third-party testing by facilities approved by SEFA will be used to certify that the seating meets the requirements of SEFA-12. Once that testing has been completed by our SEFA members, the specific seating models tested will be listed on the SEFA website. We expect that test results will be submitted to the SEFA offices starting in mid-2023 so that anyone purchasing or specifying seating for labs will have access to the companies and models of seating that have been successfully tested to this lab grade seating standard.

SEFA is an international trade association formed in 1988. It is a U.S. based not-for-profit organization consisting of over 165 members from 28 different countries. SEFA Executive Members are the world's leading manufacturers of laboratory grade furniture and related equipment. SEFA also has members who are renown lab architects and lab planners who, among other roles, oversee the *SEFA Lab of the Year*<sup>®</sup> international competition. Since its inception, SEFA's primary goal is to assist in creating the safest lab environments. One of the ways this is accomplished is by promulgating laboratory grade standards for various types of furniture and equipment found in a lab. For example, SEFA-1 covers



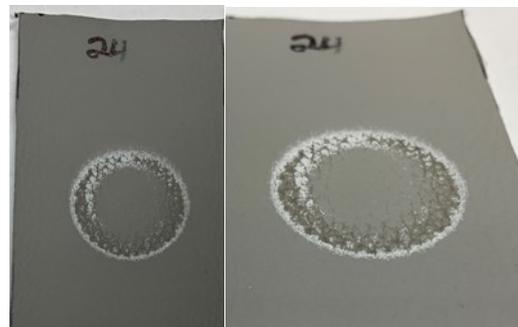
Fume Hoods, SEFA- 3 deals with Work Surfaces and the SEFA-8 standards address Casework. In total, there are now eight (8) different product standards used by our industry to help insure safety in labs. As a condition of membership, every SEFA Member that manufactures furniture or related equipment is required, through independent third-party testing, to establish that it makes at least one product that meets one of SEFA’s laboratory grade standards.

The process of creating a lab grade seating standard began in November of 2018 when the Committee first met face-to-face at Rockefeller University, during SEFA’s 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Ed Metzger of Bio-Fit Engineered Products and Kai Schuler of Interstuhl Buromodel GmbH were elected Co-chairs of this Committee. Based upon the attendance at that meeting of lab seating and furniture manufacturers as well as a large group of our Advisory Board Members (who consist of the world’s leading lab architects and planners) it became clear that a standard for lab grade seating was needed. These groups worked together over the next four years to create this standard. There were many revisions and improvements to the standard before the final draft was accepted by the Committee and approved by both SEFA’s Advisory Board and Board of Directors.

SEFA-12 is 28 pages in length and consists of seven (7) sections along with End Notes and a four-part Appendix. The sections are as follows:

- Scope
- Purpose
- Introduction
- Product Requirements
- Cleaning Protocols
- Lab Grade Seating Testing Requirements
- Seating Surface Finish tests

**Appendix I** includes actual images of chemical resistance testing and what the test labs will consider in determining whether the seating surfaces have passed the stringent chemical resistance testing. This is the first time a SEFA standard writing committee has undertaken this task and we expect our other Committees will likely incorporate testing images into their standards when revised.



*Level 2 rating examples:*

*Coated Silicon Upholstery  
Color change slight surface etch  
Chemical—Hydrofluoric Acid 48%*

**Appendix II** is an extremely useful and comprehensive selection guide for specifiers and end-users to assist in making the correct seating choices depending upon specific lab environments. Finally, Appendices III and IV cover a lab grade seating checklist and specific cleaning protocols.

SEFA's ultimate goal is to create standards for all of the major furniture components and products typically found in a lab which are not already covered by other recognizable standards. For example, SEFA members are now working on standards for exhausting laminar flow devices; lab grade flooring; as well as a standard for lab grade washers. The industry and other stakeholders need an organization like SEFA to take a leading role in creating these standards that will result in safer lab environments. SEFA-12 is another major step forward in achieving that goal.

As we like to remind people: *"SEFA spells SAFE"*<sup>®</sup>.