

General Specification for  
Workstation Clusters

Scope. This description covers office workstation clusters. Workstation clusters are system type workstations generally arranged around a central point and which have a fixed footprint. The clusters consist of connecting, structural panels and/or desking systems with provisions for mounting a range of furniture components. Panels/privacy screens, worksurfaces, overhead storage, pedestals, filing, task management systems, lighting, electrical and wire management comprise workstation clusters.

Design. The workstation cluster shall be ergonomically designed to provide an aesthetically pleasing, space efficient, self-contained grouping of workstations designed and marketed as an integral unit for heavy duty, long term office use.

Salient characteristics. The requirements contained herein are the minimum required features to be accepted under this contract. The manufacturer may offer additional products which are designed to enhance the function of the cluster. Acceptance of products not specified herein is at the contracting officer's option.

General. All products furnished under this description shall be of a design and materials to withstand hard daily use with a minimum of maintenance and repair.

Panels, face panels, face units, panel inserts.

Flammability. All panels, face panels, face units, and panel inserts offered shall have a maximum smoke development rating of 450 and shall be rated as Class A (0-25 flame spread), Class B (26-75 flame spread) or Class C (76-200 flame spread) when tested as specified herein. All product lines offered for GSA contract must include Class A rated products and may include Class B and Class C rated products.

Acoustics. Acoustical panels must have a minimum noise reduction coefficient (NRC) of 0.50 when tested as specified herein. Face panels, face units, and panel inserts if classified as acoustical must have a minimum noise reduction coefficient of 0.50.

Component mounting. For a structural panel based workstation cluster, the cluster shall allow for the suspending of components on both sides of the shared panels.

Leveling and alignment. The workstation cluster shall provide precise alignment of adjacent panels and/or components and shall include leveling glides to compensate for uneven floors. A minimum 20-mm adjustment range is required. When placed on a level surface with the glides fully retracted the maximum distance between the panel and the floor shall be 25 mm.

Worksurfaces.

Types. The workstation cluster shall include worksurfaces which are panel supported and/or freestanding. When panel supported and freestanding surfaces are offered, they shall be of similar construction and appearance and shall allow the integration of both types within a workstation. Panel supported surfaces may include cantilever, rail, bracket and end supported. Freestanding surfaces may include open base (C- or T-leg) and full-panel end and shall be designed for use with freestanding and/or mobile pedestals.

Construction. Top surfaces shall be laminate or wood veneer. Surfaces shall be balanced to resist warping, and undersides shall be smoothly finished. Edges shall be post formed, solid wood, plastic t- molding, plastic edge banding, or self-edge. When self-edging is used, the corners shall be eased.

Drawer pedestals and drawers.

Types. The workstation cluster shall include drawer pedestals or individual drawer units. Pedestal types may include surface mounted, freestanding and mobile pedestals. Freestanding and mobile pedestals shall be designed to allow use beneath a worksurface and shall not exceed 760 mm in height.

Drawers. Drawer types shall include pencil or personal drawers, box drawers and file drawers.

Locks. Pedestals and drawers shall be available with locks or locking devices

Shelves and cabinets. The workstation cluster shall include shelves and cabinets in at least two widths. Cabinets shall be provided with a receding door or may be formed from a shelf and separate top and door assembly. Cabinet locks shall be available.

Lighting. The workstation cluster shall include task lighting. As a minimum, task lights shall be capable of mounting beneath a shelf or cabinet. All lights offered shall be Underwriters' Laboratories (UL) approved or approved by other independent testing laboratories using recognized industry standards. Task lights shall have individual on/off switches and shall be equipped with a diffusion lens to provide glare free light. Lights shall be shielded to prevent direct viewing of the lamp or bulb at eye level from a seated position.

Electrical system. The workstation cluster shall have an electrical system capable of distributing electrical service to several workstations from a central feed point. The

electrical system shall have a minimum capacity for three 20-amp circuits. The system shall provide access to electrical power through receptacles located in the panels or panel raceway. The cluster may include desk height or desk mounted receptacles. All electrical components shall be UL listed and labeled or tested and labeled by other independent testing laboratories using recognized industry standards.

**Test Requirements.** The workstation cluster shall be tested in accordance with the requirements listed below.

**Flammability.** The fire test shall be conducted in accordance with American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Standard E84, "Standard Method of Test for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials", by an independent laboratory, the vendors ISO Guide 25 self certified testing facility, or the vendors ISO 9001 registered facility. The test report shall be not more than three years old at the time set for receipt of offers, and during the term of the contract new testing shall be conducted every five years if the panel construction has not changed. If panel construction is changed new fire tests are required. The test report must state the panel series tested and must state in detail the construction of the panel tested. The test shall be conducted on the entire assembled panel (the complete core, adhesive, decorative fabric, frame and joining components). The test must be conducted on each different fabric, and interior construction. For products of similar core constructions, if "worst case" performance can be proven for a construction, textile approvals may be made using such worst case constructions. Additional fabrics may be offered for inclusion under the contract provided the following conditions are met: (1) An ASTM E-84 test was conducted on the complete panel, which is acceptable to GSA. (2) The additional fabrics offered were tested and comply with NFPA No. 701 or tested to ASTM E-84 and comply with Class A or listed/approved by a NRTL such as UL's fabric recognition program or 100% polyester fabric waiver program. (3) There are no other changes in the panel construction.

Alternatively, testing may be conducted in accordance with Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Standard No. 723.

**Panel acoustics.** The acoustical test for the NRC shall be conducted, by an independent laboratory, the vendors ISO Guide 25 self certified testing facility, or the vendors ISO 9001 registered facility, in accordance with ASTM Standard C423, "Standard Test Method for Sound Absorption and Sound Absorption Coefficients by the Reverberation Room Method."

The test report shall be not more than three years old at the time set for receipt of offers, and during the term of the contract new testing shall be conducted every five years if the panel construction has not changed. If panel construction is changed a new acoustical test is required. The test report must state the panel series tested and must state in detail the construction of the panel tested. The test shall be

conducted on the entire assembled panel, full-face area (the complete core, adhesive, decorative fabric, frame, and raceway). NRC shall utilize an average measurement over the four standard octave intervals, 250, 500, 1000 and 2000 Hz. Both sides of the panel shall be tested. The test must be conducted on each different interior construction offered as an acoustical panel.

Electrical system. The electrical system shall meet the requirements of UL Standard 1286, as applicable or shall meet UL 183.

Panel, panel supported components, and overhead storage units, and keyboard surfaces. Unless otherwise noted, panels, panel-mounted components, and keyboard surface shall be tested in accordance with the applicable requirements of American National Standard ANSI/BIFMA X5.6. Representative items shall be selected for testing based on worst-case conditions.

Freestanding worksurfaces. Freestanding worksurfaces shall be tested in accordance with the requirements of American National Standard ANSI/BIFMA X5.5.

Freestanding/stationary and mobile pedestals. Drawer pedestals shall be tested in accordance with the applicable sections of ANSI/BIFMA X5.9. Any devices used to maintain the stability of the unit, such as counterweights, shall be included in all product furnished under the contract.

Notes.

ANSI/BIFMA. Standards are available from BIFMA International, 678 Front Avenue NW, Suite 150, Grand Rapids, MI 49504-5368. (616) 285-3963

ASTM. Standards are available from the American Society for Testing and Materials, 100 Barr Harbor Dr., West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2925. (610) 832-9585

NFPA. Standards are available from the National Fire Protection Association, 11 Tracy Drive, Avon, MA 02322. (800) 344-3555

UL. Standards are available from Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., 333 Pfingston Rd., Northbrook, IL 60062-2096. (877) 854-3577