

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

30 OCTOBER 2024

### **SFIC TAKES THE LEAD IN ENCOURAGING BETTER HEALTH AND WELLNESS STANDARDS IN THE NEWLY RENOVATED HOMES AND OFFICES**

Ms Low Yen Ling, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, officially launched the SFIC Sustainability Furniture Mark (SFM) on 30 October 2024 at the 2nd SFIC Sustainability Summit, recognising 28 furniture companies for products with certified safe formaldehyde emissions.

The SFM 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. The SFM will focus on other areas of sustainability in subsequent years.

Mr Phua Boon Huat, SFIC President, said: “With increased consumers’ focus on sustainability, health and wellness in their choice of furniture and furnishing products, the SFM would provide them with a clear, industry-wide standard that can be easily recognised. This provides consumers with the confidence and assurance when making informed, responsible purchase decisions.”

Commune Lifestyle is one such company that has been recognised. Mr Joshua Koh, CEO, Commune Lifestyle Pte Ltd, shared: “At Commune, we are deeply committed to sustainability, integrating practices such as sustainable packaging,

going nearly paperless in our operations, and using low formaldehyde materials. We believe the SFM will further boost consumer confidence by ensuring our products meet the health and safety standards, ultimately driving sales and trust in our brand.”

Pepperwall Pte Ltd is another awardee of the SFM. Mr Nigel Yap, General Manager of Pepperwall Pte Ltd, shared that “Pepperwall views sustainability as a key consideration in our product development process. The SFM reinforces our confidence in using certified materials, empowering us to develop innovative, sustainable products with partners.”

The SFM is a key part of SFIC’s Furniture Sustainability Programme to drive industry-wide adoption of safer and more sustainability practices. There are 3 key areas that the programme focuses on - Setting the Benchmark for Sustainable Practices, Building Capability for a Sustainable Future, and Thought Leadership: Building a Sustainable Future, Together.

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

*Annex B – Other Initiatives under SFIC Sustainability Furniture Programme*

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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.

### **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 28 companies for SFIC Sustainability Furniture Mark**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name of Company</b>	<b>Type of Product(s) recognised</b>
1	Admira Pte Ltd	High Pressure Laminates
2	Benel Singapore Pte Ltd	Office Furniture
3	Calvary Carpentry Pte Ltd	Removable Decking System
4	Catalyste Pte Ltd	High Pressure Laminates
5	Cellini Design Center	TV Console
6	Commune Lifestyle Pte Ltd	Drawer Dresser And Storage Unit
7	EDL Pte Ltd	High Pressure Laminates
8	Evorich Holdings Pte Ltd	Eco-Friendly Vinyl Flooring Material
9	Excel Hardware Pte Ltd	Plywood
10	Exsto Asia Pte Ltd	Office Workstation
11	GreenLam Pte Ltd	High Pressure Laminates
12	Harvest Link International Pte Ltd	Children System Furniture
13	IM Space Pte Ltd	System Furniture
14	JOS Furnitures Pte Ltd	System Furniture
15	KODA Ltd	Solid Wood Furniture with metal screws and concrete base
16	Life Is Good Pte Ltd	Eco-wood decorative panel system
17	Lounge Innovation Pte Ltd	Bed Frame

18	Panelogue Pte Ltd	Engineered Wood
19	Panaplast Pte Ltd	High Pressure Laminates
20	Pepperwall Pte Ltd	Acoustics Panels
21	S-Team Services Pte Ltd	Modular Furniture Series
22	Scanteak Singapore	Finished Goods, Cabinet
23	Speco Singapore Pte Ltd	Coating
24	Song-Cho (IMP & EXP) Pte Ltd	Stainless Steel Kitchen System
25	Star Furniture Pte Ltd	Solid Wood Furniture
26	Sunyu Products & Services Pte Ltd	High Pressure Laminates
27	TAK Products & Services Pte Ltd	High Pressure Laminates
28	V+H Creations Pte Ltd	Decorative Panels

**Other Initiatives under SFIC Sustainability Furniture Programme**

- **Sustainability Leaders Programme (SLP):**  
 The Sustainability Leaders Programme has built foundational capabilities for nearly 100 furniture companies, covering essential topics like sustainability certifications, carbon management, health and well-being, advanced manufacturing, upcycling and recycling, and circular economy practices.
- **Transformational Mission Trips:**  
 SFIC have successfully embarked on sustainability missions to Denmark in 2022, Tokyo in 2023 and Shenzhen/Hong Kong in 2024, enabling 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 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.

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