Policy on Interior Finishes

Unit: Furnishings and Design  
Effective Date: 10/22/2020  
Revision Date: 

Contact: Kevin Stevens  
Title: Director, Procurement Services

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide a clear and concise understanding for interior finish and furniture selection within the built environment on the UA Campus. Standards are set to ensure adherence to applicable codes as well as to work in conjunction with the established University of Alabama brand.

Policy

Furnishings and Design Department Responsibilities

The Furnishings and Design department is responsible for ensuring that interior finishes meet the following building codes and regulations, if applicable.

1. **Floors:** International Building Code (IBC), interior floor finish and floor covering materials are to be classified as Class I or II in accordance with National Fire and Protection Agency (NFPA) 253.
2. **Walls and Ceilings:** As per the IBC, interior walls and ceiling finishes shall be classified for fire performance and smoke development as Class A, B, or C in accordance with American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM) E84 or Universal Laboratories (UL) 723.
3. **Mattresses:** All Mattresses for residence halls or assisted facilities must meet California (CAL) 129.
4. **Commercial Fabrics:** Any fabrics specified for a commercial application must meet Technical Bulletin (TB)117 and/or TB 117-2013. Additionally, any vertical fabric specified must meet ASTM D6412.
5. **Accessibility:** All spaces designed shall be done so in accordance to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

Departmental Responsibilities

Departments involved in finish projects, new construction, and/or renovations on the UA campus must adhere to the interior finish standards established by the Furnishings and Design Department in partnership with University Administration. In the planning phases of the project, the departmental contact will be provided recommendations based on the University’s pre-approved palate of colors and finish options for flooring, base, wall, ceiling, furniture, fabric selections, etc.

Exceptions

Exceptions to this policy must have the approval of the Vice President of Finance and Operations or approved designee.

The Furnishings and Design Department does not manage lab furniture. Departments must refer to the Lab Safety Manager in the Office of Environmental Health and Safety for approval of lab furnishings.

Specification of interior accessories including pictures, art, mirrors, flower arrangements, decorative items and lamps are excluded from the scope of the Furnishings and Design Department.

This policy does not apply to Greek Housing or Athletic Venues.
Scope
This policy applies to faculty and staff who are involved in finish projects, new construction and/or renovations on the UA campus.

References
- UA Design Guidelines and Standards
- American National Standards Institute (ANSI)
- National Fire Protection Agency
- State of Alabama Building Commission
- ADA Standards for Accessible Design
- ASTM International
- International Building Code

Office of the Vice President of Finance and Operations

Signed: ________________________________ 10/22/2020
Cheryl Mowdy
Assistant Vice President for Finance and Operations