



Work Surfaces Committee Web Meeting
Thursday, June 20, 2024 - 11:00 AM EDT Time
Co Chairs - Rodney LaBelle and Harry Simmons

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MEETING AGENDA

1. Approval of the March 28, 2024 Minutes
2. Review and discuss Survey Results
3. Begin discussion of the top 3 testing protocols

SEFA 3 Work Surfaces Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 28, 2024 - 11:00 AM—NY Time

Co-Chairs – Rodney LaBelle and Harry Simmons

Co-Chair –	Rodney LaBelle	Kewaunee Scientific
Attendees:	Leila Calovini	Abet Laminati
	Steve McCauley	Absolute Testing
	Ben Luelf	American Epoxy
	Dennis Ray	“ “
	Punit Jain	Cannon Design
	Brant Kelly	Diversified Casework
	Beto Garcia	Durcon
	Franklin Hunt	Durcon
	Karen Lundgren	Durcon
	Jonathan Broman	Fundermax
	Hubertus Burger-Scheidlin	“
	Jeni Robb	“
	Leslie Ashor	HOK
	Dennis Mertz	J E D Installation
	Weidong Mei	Jeio Tech
	Matt Kassin	JHC Fabrication
	Kurt Rindoks	Kewaunee Scientific
	Alberto Falasconi	LP, SRL
	Antonio Falasconi	“ “
	Stefan Benders	SGS Netherlands
	Frances Zhang	Shanghai Road
	Diane Kase	SmithGroup
	Kevin Kovash	TMI Systems Corp.
	Valentine Di Giacomo	TRESPA
	Yuri Kalashnykov	“
	Jim Lewis	“
Absent:	Harry Simmons	Simmons Epoxy
SEFA Staff:	Barbara Carr	
	David Sutton	
	Ross Sutton	

The Meeting was called to order at 11:01 AM. David Sutton reviewed the Minutes of the Work Surfaces Meeting held in Orlando on November 2, 2023. He advised that during the Orlando Meeting there was a vote with regard to keeping SEFA 3 as one document rather than breaking it out by material type as the Casework Standards had done. The vote was not formally recorded and therefore before moving forward today, we need to have a formal motion, a second and a vote.

Kevin Kovash made a motion to maintain SEFA 3 as a single document dealing with all materials, rather than breaking it into multiple material-specific standards. The motion was seconded by Brant Kelly and unanimously approved.

Co-Chair Rodney Labelle then introduced himself to the attendees who were not present at the Annual Meeting. Rodney advised that following the November meeting he began a review of the SEFA 3 document. He advised that since we will be continuing as a single document we need to do some reorganization of the standard. He suggested working with a Matrix which will clarify what testing is required for each material.

Rodney shared a Material Testing Matrix based on the references in the current SEFA 3 document. He indicated that all of these tests may not be necessary but suggested that as a starting point, the Committee needs to identify what characteristics define a laboratory grade work surface. Punit Jain said he liked the organization and lay-out and suggested we add seamless construction as a characteristic. Antonio Falasconi from LP, Srl noted that Ceramic was not included as a material type.

There was a preliminary discussion about Load Bearing. We would need to establish a max unsupported load, also a question was raised as to the span for the test, is it 2 feet? It was suggested that flexural strength, modulus, compressive and/or tensile testing could also be considered. It was agreed the flexural strength makes sense.

The Committee also discussed Impact Resistance Testing. A question was raised about the height for this test – Ben Luelf said he thought the height was 2-1/2 feet. Stefan Benders of SGS indicated there is a relatively inexpensive test to perform – any impact more than 10mm is a failure. There is also an ISO test that could be considered.

A suggestion was made that some of the testing criteria need to be clearly defined in order to insure more uniform results. Age of chemicals was cited as a factor that can affect ratings in the Chemical Resistance Test. Punit Jain indicated that the Committee

should also be mindful that with a Pass/Fail rating, performance and appearance should be two different things.

Rodney indicated there is a lot to be considered here and it may be helpful to prioritize the list and defer some of the topics for consideration at a later time. For example, ease of cleaning may be something we want to consider but may not need to be addressed at this time. Jonathan Broman suggested that preliminarily it might be helpful if the Committee could agree on 4 or 5 Pass/Fail items.

Rodney asked if we could distribute the Testing Matrix to the Committee and Advisory Board members for them to rank the testing criteria in the order of importance to them. The Chart should be returned within the next month so that the Co-Chairs have an ample opportunity to review the preference of the membership and set a path forward for the research work for the Committee.

The Committee agreed that we should meet again before the end of June.

At 12:03 PM Rodney thanked everyone for their participation and called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Brant Kelly, seconded by Jonathan Broman and unanimously approved.

SEFA 3 - Material Testing List

Test type	Rank	Rank	Rank	Rank	Rank	Rank	Rank	Rank	Rank	Total
Chemical / Stain Resistance	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
Load Bearing Capability	2	3	7	5	6	3	6	3	7	42
Abrasion and Scratch Resistance	7	9	4	3	7	4	2	7	4	47
Ease of Cleaning	8	5	5	2	4	2	5	9	8	48
Impact Resistance	5	2	6	4	8	5	9	4	5	48
Heat Cold Resist / Thermal Shock	8	8	2	8	9	10	3	2	2	52
Low Flammability / Flame Spread	3	6	3	11	9	9	4	5	3	53
Low Moisture Absorption	4	4	8	9	2	11	7	8	9	62
Bacterial Resistance	10	7	9	6	5	6	8	6	6	63
Anti Electro-Static Discharge	6	10	10	7	10	8	11	11	10	83
Seamless Construction	11	11	11	10	3	7	10	10	11	84