

[METRIC]  
A-A-3083  
April 26, 2000  
Superseding  
AA-C-291G  
February 8, 1989

## COMMERCIAL ITEM DESCRIPTION

### CHAIRS, FOLDING (STEEL)

The General Services Administration has authorized the use of this Commercial Item Description by all federal agencies as a replacement for Federal Specification AA-C-291G.

1. SCOPE. This commercial item description covers steel folding chairs for use as temporary seating in dual purpose areas. The metal chairs may be used indoors or outdoors. However, it is not recommended that they be continually exposed to the elements. Chairs with plywood seats are generally intended for indoor use. The padded seat and back chairs are intended for conference rooms, court rooms and for general household/office and hospital use.

### 2. CLASSIFICATION.

Classes:

- 1 - Steel seat and steel back.
- 2 - Padded seat and padded back.
- 3 - Plywood seat and steel back.
- 4 - Padded seat and padded back, with arms.

### 3. SALIENT CHARACTERISTICS.

3.1 Design. The design shall be such that one person can easily fold and unfold the chairs. The chairs shall fold compactly to permit stacking directly over one another in a free standing pile. The chairs shall fold smoothly and quietly.

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Beneficial comments, recommendations, additions, deletions, clarifications,, etc. and any data which may improve this document should be sent to: General Services Administration, Federal Service, National Furniture Center (3FNE-CO), Washington DC 20406.

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3.2 Dimensions. The overall chair dimensions shall be as specified in Table I .

TABLE I. Chair dimensions (millimeters).

	Minimum	Maximum
Overall folded length	864	1016
Overall height	749	864
Height from floor to high point of seat	419	483
Width of seat	343	445
Depth of seat	318	419
Width between arms (class 4)	445	

### 3.3 Classes of chairs.

3.3.1 Class 1 chairs. Class 1 chairs shall be of all metal construction and shall have no seat padding or back padding.

3.3.2 Class 2 chairs. Class 2 chairs shall conform to all the requirements specified herein for class 1 chairs, except that padding covered with vinyl/artificial leather is added to the seats and backrests.

3.3.3 Class 3 chairs. The chairs shall have a 5-ply plywood seat with rounded front corners. All seat edges shall be either rounded or housed in a metal frame, to prevent feathering of top and bottom plies. Unless the plywood panel fits flush with or slightly insets the face of the seat pan, its top edge shall be rounded along its entire perimeter.

3.3.4 Class 4 chairs. Class 4 chairs shall meet the requirements for class 2 chairs with the addition of arms.

3.4 Finishes. The manufacturer shall provide their standard commercial gray subject to the contracting officer's approval. The finish for wood parts shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's standard commercial practice. Stain and/or laminates when used, shall be a walnut color in accordance with the manufacturer's standard commercial colors.

3.5 Identification marking. Each chair shall be permanently and inconspicuously marked in a plain and legible manner with the contract number, month and year of manufacture and the manufacturer's name or trademark. A permanently affixed label is acceptable.

3.6 Workmanship. Finished chairs shall be free from any defects that affect the appearance, function or serviceability of the chairs or the safety of the user. Welding and brazing shall be neat, uniform, free of burrs and adequate to assure rigidity and strength.

3.7 Performance. The chairs shall meet the criteria of ANSI/BIFMA X5.1 (most recent edition).

4. REGULATORY REQUIREMENT. The manufacturer is encouraged to use recovered materials in accordance with Public Law 94-580 to the maximum extent practicable

5. PRODUCT CONFORMANCE. The products provided shall meet the salient characteristics of this commercial item description, conform to the producer's own drawings, specifications, standards, and quality assurance practices and be the same product offered for sale in the commercial market. The Government reserves the right to require proof of such conformance.

5.1 Performance Each unit shall comply with ANSI/BIFMA X5.1 – 1993 American National Standards test for general office chairs or most recent edition. Failure of any chair to comply with these requirements shall be cause for rejection. Unless otherwise specified, certifications must be current and based on performance test reports that are not more than three years old at the time of submittal of offer. New test reports are required if there is a change in construction or components.

6. PACKAGING. The preservation, packaging, packing and marking shall be in accordance with the manufacturers standard commercial practice. Plastic materials shall not be used for the packaging, packing and marking material for the Class I chairs that are ordered by the United States Navy.

7. NOTES.

7.1 Ordering options. Purchasers should specify the following:

- a. Class of chair required.
- b. Finish on exposed wood or color of laminate if applicable.

7.2 ANSI/BIFMA standard. The ANSI/BIFMA standard is obtainable from American National Standards Institute, Inc., 1430 Broadway, New York, NY 10018.

7.3 National stock numbers. The following national stock numbers refer to this commercial item description.

7105-00-269-8463  
7105-00-663-5654  
7105-00-663-5659  
7105-00-663-8475  
7105-00-959-8440

Preparing Activity:  
GSA-FSS