Facility Guidelines Institute (FGI) Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospitals, 2018

Are Kwalu, Metal and Wood Chairs All Easy to Clean?

Many challenges result from the vast selection of furniture choices that designers face when specifying projects and the cost associated with this investment.

The FGI Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospitals, 2018 is the definitive guideline for the features of certain types of furniture attributes to help battle problems like HAIs.

FGI Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospitals

A 2.1-7.2.3 Surfaces

1. Reduction of surface contamination linked to healthcare associated infections (HAIs). Surfaces and furnishings selected should have clear, written manufacturer-provided cleaning protocols that will ensure the product remains durable and can meet CDC cleaning standards for healthcare facilities.

a) Surfaces should be easy to clean, with no surface crevices, rough textures, joints, or seams

b) Surfaces should be non-absorptive, nonporous, and smooth

No Joints

No Seams

No Surface Crevices

How Kwalu Complies:

The arms on a typical guest chair are made from one piece of Kwalu material, are seamless and have no surface joints.

Kwalu Arms on a Typical Guest Chair

- Seamless
- One-piece construction
- No surface joints

Kwalu Modena Arm
Seamless / No Surface Joints

How Other Furniture Companies Attempt to Comply:

Wood chair manufacturers needed to add a non-porous material by way of polyurethane or solid surface arm caps.

Metal chair manufacturers chose to add arm caps as the surface of a metal arm is cold to the touch.

When these new materials were added, they created seams and surface joints.

Competitor Arms on Guest Chairs

- Made with seams
- Two-piece construction
- Multiple surface joints

Do these seams/surface joints highlighted in red below really comply with the FGI Guidelines which call for no “surface joints or seams”?

Competitor
Solid Surface Arm Caps
With Seams / Surface Joints

Competitor
Polyurethane Arm Caps
With Seams / Surface Joints