

Teal has become the latest furniture manufacturer to become a full member of The Furniture Industry Sustainability Programme (FISP).

FISP, which is audited by FIRA International, was launched in 2006 to support and improve the furniture industry's sustainability credentials> FISP has rapidly become established as the industry forum on all environmental and sustainability issues.

Teal is one of the UK's largest manufacturers and suppliers of healthcare furniture, with an outstanding record for quality and reliability. For many years, Teal has been a major supplier to the NHS and healthcare sectors.

FISP membership demonstrates that Teal is taking its environmental and corporate social responsibility obligations seriously. FISP does not just focus on environmental issues, but also purchasing, end of product life, and also social and community issues, therefore FISP membership contributes to improving a member's competitiveness in terms of cost savings and production efficiencies,.

Teal is now part of the Senator group but was originally a family run business with a long tradition in the manufacture of contract furniture. Teal produces a large and innovative range of furniture solutions designed for hospitals, care homes, housing associations, higher education and public areas from their base in Lancashire.

Mike Brewster, sales director, from Teal said, "The ability to prove Teal's sustainability commitment and credentials is vital in securing sales growth and meeting tender requirements. FISP is backed by the entire furniture industry and is the mark of sustainable excellence."

Matt Butcher, FIRA's Environmental consultant said, "Large tenders and retail specifications increasingly ask a supplier to prove that they have sustainability at the heart of their operations. FISP membership is the easiest way of demonstrating such credentials. FISP can be used as a valuable marketing tool to differentiate a FISP member and his products from a competitor. We are delighted to welcome Teal on board as one of our members. Teals' new commitment to FISP demonstrates that despite the economic conditions FISP membership is seen as a valuable accreditation scheme, particularly for those manufacturing for the contract market."

FIRA will be promoting FISP more fully in the future by highlighting those in the furniture industry who are concentrating on improving their environmental credentials, as well as to encourage the growth and awareness of FISP membership.

Teal join a long list of existing FISP members which include Herman Miller, Lee and Plumpton and Premiere Kitchens, Sealy UK and Senator International.

For details on how you can join the FISP programme contact Matt Butcher, FIRA's Environmental consultant on mbutcher@fira.co.uk or call 01438 777 602.