



Furniture Testing & Certification Leaders

Ralph Buckingham is the Category lead for Furniture testing and certification at Intertek. He is the Certification Manager for Intertek's division that provides 3rd party certification to the BIFMA E3 standard for the level™ Cert Program. He is a member of BIFMA, and participates in all major BIFMA initiatives. Ralph wrote a white paper titled "An Engineers Guide for Evaluating Furniture Quality and Improving Test Methods" (available upon request).

Over the past three years Ralph has guided the development and expansion of the services Intertek offers to the furniture industry. In the most recent service offering expansion Ralph brought together Intertek's experts in Environmental Management Systems Auditing, Life Cycle Assessment, CMP / OSHA, and Corporate Social Responsibility to develop a Certification Team and auditing process for the BIFMA level™ Program.

Education

2001–2006

Ferris State University, Grand Rapids, MI

- B.A.S., Industrial Technology and Management with Emphasis on Supply Chain Management.
- Assoc., Industrial Electronics and Engineering

2006–Present

Western Michigan University, Grand Rapids, MI

- M.S., Engineering Management

Intertek's level™ Certification Team Members

Morna Hallsaxton, BSN, MFA, LEED AP

LEED Project Assessor since September 2008 and ISO 14001 (EMS) certified auditor
BSN (Registered RN) from Kent State University, BFA with Interior Design Major and Furniture Design Minor from Kendall College of Art and Design, MFA from Michigan State University.
(Currently facilitating sustainable design and construction for residential projects).

Previous qualifications: Instructor at MSU and developed a sustainable environment class for senior level; researched and tested interior residential design environments for indoor air quality, water, natural daylight and pollutants for thesis; facilitated design concepts and finish specifications using AutoCAD for residential, commercial, and contract projects (Herman Miller & Steelcase); published articles about Interior Design; and taught art and interior design classes through a local art council.

Dennis Powell, LEED AP BD+C

LEED Program Manager

Dennis has been with Intertek for 7 years in various positions, Lead Auditor, Certification Manager, Regional Accreditation Manager and is currently the LEED Program Manager.

As LEED Program Manager, oversees a team of 5 LEED Reviewers that includes an Architect, Interior Designer, Environmental Specialist and 2 Mechanical Engineers.

Previous qualifications: Lead Auditor qualifications include ISO9000 Quality Management Systems, ISO14001 Environmental Management Systems & TS-16949 Automotive Quality Management Systems. 30 years in manufacturing as a Quality Manager.

Andrew Tazelaar, level™ a Program Auditor

Andrew is the first person within Intertek trained specifically to perform level™ audits. Andrew was instrumental in helping to develop Intertek's standard operating procedures to be followed for the level™ program, and the standard documents that are used during an audit. Andrew's current role in audits is to verify any tools the client uses to gather and report data. This can include material efficiency data, energy efficiency data, recycled content, etc.

Education

Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI

- Bachelor of Science in Engineering with a Mechanical Concentration (BSME) - May 2005