

Australian Standard™

**Filing cabinets**

**Part 1: Lateral filing cabinets  
(ANSI BIFMA X5.2—1997, MOD)**

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee CS-088, Commercial Furniture. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 17 September 2003 and published on 16 December 2003.

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Australia Post  
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Australian Industry Group  
Business New Zealand  
Commercial Furniture Industry Association of Australia  
Ergonomics Society of Australia  
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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee CS-088, Commercial Furniture at the request of manufacturers.

The objective of this Standard is to provide specifiers and manufacturers with a Standard for the determination of strength, stability, performance characteristics and durability of lateral filing cabinets and to assist purchasing authorities, retailers and users in their selection and evaluation.

The Standard is an adoption with national modifications and has been reproduced from ANSI BIFMA X5.2—1997, *Lateral Files—Tests*. Variations to the source document for application in Australia are listed in Appendix ZZ and the text affected is indicated by a marginal bar.

The terms ‘lateral file cabinet’ and ‘lateral filing cabinet’ can be used interchangeably meaning a filing cabinet with a width greater than its depth.

Committee CS-088 considers that occupational health and safety considerations in Australia make it imperative for a cabinet to have a method of preventing toppling over when two or more loaded drawers are opened. A requirement to fit an anti-tilt device, if there is no other means of preventing toppling over of the filing cabinet when two or more loaded drawers are open has been added to the ANSI Standard.

Other modifications in this Standard, considered necessary by the Committee, comprise the addition of the latch test for the evaluation of the strength of the latching mechanism, if present.

These additional requirements are set out in Appendix ZZ.

This Standard is Part 1 of a series of requirements for filing cabinets. Other Parts in this series are as follows:

- Part 2: Vertical filing cabinets
- Part 3: Mobile pedestals

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## AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

### **Filing cabinets**

#### Part 1:

#### Lateral filing cabinets (ANSI BIFMA X5.2—1997, MOD)

##### 1 Scope

This standard is intended to provide manufacturers, specifiers, and users with a common basis for evaluating the function, safety, durability, and structural adequacy of free-standing lateral files. The standard defines specific tests, the laboratory equipment, and the test conditions. It specifies the acceptance levels to evaluate these products, independent of construction materials, manufacturing processes, and mechanical and/or aesthetic designs. These acceptance levels are based on the actual field and test experience of The Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturer's Association (BIFMA) members. These tests are not intended to assess a product that has been in use.