



The Furniture Makers' Company the furnishing industry's charity

How to join as a Freeman or Liveryman

The Furniture Makers' Company is always keen to admit new members, men and women, as Freemen of the Company.

Liverymen are recruited from the Freemen whenever there is a vacancy within the 300 limit imposed by the Court of Aldermen.

A Freeman, when invited to become a Liveryman, must be involved with the furnishing industry in the United Kingdom. In practice, because the Freedom is the route to the Livery, this applies to Freemen too. The rule is very carefully worded. It allows, for example, overseas customers or suppliers active in the UK to join the Company as well as professors and lecturers researching or teaching any aspect of the industry. We welcome interiors journalists and PR people – anyone whose work is or was furnishing related.

Freemen may participate in all the activities of the Company. Only Liverymen can vote in Common Hall, to elect the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs.

To be admitted as a Freeman

Any person can become a Freeman – to take up the Freedom of the Company – but they must be proposed by a person who has been a Liveryman for more than two years and who has known the applicant personally for at least four years.

To be admitted as a Liverymen

To become a Liveryman - take up the Livery - there are five requirements

- The candidate must already be a Freeman
- He or she must be actively engaged in or with the furnishing industry in the United Kingdom
- He or she must have obtained the Freedom of the City of London
- There must be a vacancy - the Livery is limited to 300 by the Court of Aldermen
- The candidate must be invited by the Court to join the Livery

Admission to the Livery

In simple terms, a Freeman of the Company needs to become a Freeman of the City of London, meet the five requirements listed above, and pay the Livery entry fee ('Livery Entry Fine') in order to become a Liveryman.

In more formal language, at any time after admission to the Freedom but before admission to the Livery, the Clerk must be requested to apply to the Chamberlain's Court on the Freeman's behalf for the Freedom of the City of London.

The Clerk needs to have the applicant's Birth Certificate, Freedom Certificate and a cheque. Applications are presented by the Chamberlain to the next meeting of the Court of Aldermen.

Once the application has been approved by the Court of Aldermen, the applicant will be asked to attend the Chamberlain's Court to be admitted to the Freedom of the City of London. If the five requirements listed above are met, and after paying the Livery entry fee, known as the Livery Fine, the Freeman can take up the Livery.