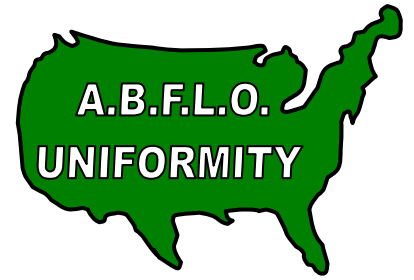




A.B.F.L.O.



Association of Bedding and Furniture Law Officials, Inc.

Founded in 1936 as a National Forum for Uniformity, Enforcement, Testing and Terminology within the various state programs

DECEMBER 2002

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Issue 5

Secondhand Crib Mattress May Have Link to SIDS

Scottish researchers have found that babies who sleep on secondhand crib mattresses seem to be at higher risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). However, it is not clear if the mattress itself is the cause of the association.

Sudden infant death syndrome is the leading cause of death for babies between 1 month and 1 year old. The risk is greatest between 2 and 4 months of age.

Dr. David Tappin and colleagues compared 133 children who died of SIDS between 1996 and 2000 with 278 healthy infants. They found that babies who died of SIDS were roughly 3 times as likely as other children to have slept on a mattress that was previously used by another child.

“The association was significantly stronger if the mattress was from another home than if it was from the same home,” the researchers reported. However, the evidence is insufficient to determine if the mattress was actually the cause of the higher risk, they concluded.

One possible explanation is that potentially toxic bacteria might grow in the mattress after it becomes repeatedly soaked with milk, urine or saliva. Such bacteria might contribute to illness or death of the infant particularly if another child from another home used the mattress. Dr. Mitchell stated that more research is needed to see if these conclusions are valid.

SOURCE: British Medical Journal

PERSONAL NOTE

I was very disturbed by the fact that secondhand crib mattresses could even have the slightest link to SIDS. Present diagnoses of SIDS include asphyxia, dehydration or child abuse. I will be following this research very closely and posting any updates in this newsletter. If there is a link between SIDS and secondhand crib mattresses, the states could play a very important role in controlling the sale of these items.

New Home Furnishings Show

High Point, NC has been the mecca for home furnishings buyers for decades. But, there is soon to be a new venue opening that could challenge High Point for the crown.

Construction has begun on a new building in Las Vegas, NV, which will become the home of the Las Vegas Home Furnishings Market. The building is slated to open January 2004. Several bedding and furniture vendors have already signed for space at the first show while others are taking a wait and see approach before investing their resources. If there is a clear opportunity to reach a substantial number of retailers who do not attend the High Point market, Las Vegas will be a success.

The High Point show is normally held in October, but the Las Vegas show will be earlier in the year, possibly January or February. ABFLO will be monitoring its progress, as it could be a good opportunity for a combined meeting.

CALIFORNIA UPDATE

Pam Rivette, chief of the California Bureau of Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation has resigned her position. Lynn Morris is serving as interim chief.

As of Nov. 1st. 2002, the Importer and Manufacturers license fee was increased to \$650.00.



Christmas is a very special time of the year. Time to reflect and give thanks to our family and friends.

The Holiday Season can also be a very busy time, last minute shipping, baking, putting up the tree and wrapping the presents.

So, before my wife hands me my list of things to do, I would like to reflect and give thanks to all of the people who have worked so hard this year and gave of their time and resources in support of ABFLO, I appreciate every ones efforts. ABFLO has gone through a number of changes this year and is poised to meet the challenges of the future. Have a wonderful and safe holiday season.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



HAPPY NEW YEAR