



# I.A.B.F.L.O.



## International 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

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[www.abflo.org](http://www.abflo.org)

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### FURNITURE FLAMMABILITY

The American Furniture Manufacturers Association (AFMA) recently held a meeting in Greensboro, NC to update the industry on proposed new flammability regulations for furniture.

Dale Ray, project manager for CPSC presented a review of the commission's latest activities related to a mandatory flame regulation for upholstered furniture. The CPSC has issued a 922-page report that includes a draft protocol for a small open flame testing program for upholstery fabrics and interliners. Dale also stated that it could be 2005 before CPSC would have a national open flame mattress standard that would pre-empt California's TB 603 standard.

Lynn Morris and John McCormack with the California Bureau of Home Furnishings reviewed the revisions being made to California's Technical Bulletin 117, which covers upholstered furniture sold in California. McCormack also stated that TB 603 would also impact mattresses used in sofa-sleepers and futons.

Morris reported that there are about 20 suppliers that have told the bureau they can supply a total of 177 million linear yards of FR materials. Lynn stated that 140 million linear yards would be needed to meet the needs of the entire country. Not all suppliers of FR materials have told the bureau how much material they can provide, so she feels that there should be enough FR material to meet industries needs.

Morris said that the bureau has already tested several mattresses that have passed the proposed California TB 603 standard. All of the beds that were "made properly" tested well within the

standards peak heat release rate of 150 kilowatts. During the one-hour test, the peak heat release cannot exceed 150 kilowatts, nor can the total heat release exceed 25 megajoules in the first 10 minutes of the test. If either of these levels is exceeded, the mattress fails the test.

### BHFTI PUBLIC HEARINGS

The California Bureau of Home Furnishings held two public hearings, April 21<sup>st</sup> in San Francisco and April 25<sup>th</sup> in Diamond Bar. Both hearings were well attended with over a dozen speakers and about 100 attending the second meeting. Bedding producers generally questioned the new standard while suppliers of FR materials supported the standard.

One legal issue surfaced at the hearings that could delay the implementation of TB 603. It appears that California officials will be required to file an "exemption from pre-emption" with the CPSC. Some California regulators have different views about this issue but one speaker stated that California wants to regulate a matter on which the CPSC has national authority. Morris said that CPSC would be encouraged to deal with the exemption issue promptly.

### LICENSING FEES

Massachusetts has announced that licensing fees for bedding, stuffed toys and sterilization/ sanitization permits have been increased.

The Secretary of Administration and Finance reported that licensing fees to manufacturer and or sell bedding or stuffed toys in Mass. has been raised to \$200.00. The fee

for a sanitization permit has also been raised to \$200.00.

Paul Tierney, Director of the program stated that all annual licenses expire on June 30<sup>th</sup> regardless of the date they were issued.

### THE CHINA CONNECTION

Mr. Li Yuxiang, Secretary General of the China Chamber of Feather and Down Products contacted IABFLO recently. After several lengthy discussions CFNA has decided to become a member of IABFLO. CFNA is affiliated with the China Chamber of Commerce for import and export of native products and animal by-products.

CFNA is a non-profit and non-governmental trade organization, with more than 3,900 member throughout China. Their main responsibilities are to maintain equitable trade and fair competition within the industry. They also provide consultation and training to members who wish to sell in the U.S. They settle trade disputes and also deal with anti-dumping cases. CFNA works with their members to raise the quality of exported products and convey the legal requirements to its members.

The China Chamber of Feather and Down Products Section was founded in 1989 and has 370 members who account for over 56% of the total volume of feather and down products exported into the U.S. market.

IABFLO would like to thank Wilford Lieber and IDFL for getting the information about our association out to other groups. This is an excellent opportunity to work with the Chinese manufacturers and help insure compliance with U.S. labeling standards.