**Furniture and Furnishings Regulations**

**Levels of Fire Resistance for Domestic Upholstered Furniture & Furnishings**

**Products that Must Comply:**

Applies to any of the following products, which contain upholstery:

- Furniture intended for private use in a dwelling, including children's furniture
- Beds, headboards of beds, mattresses (of any size)
- Sofa-beds, futons and other convertibles
- Garden furniture which is suitable for use in a dwelling
- Cushions and seat pads
- Pillows
- Loose and stretch covers for furniture

**Products that do not have to Comply:**

- Sleeping bags
- Bed linens (including duvets)
- Loose covers for mattresses
- Pillowcases
- Curtains
- Carpets

There are different requirements made for suppliers depending upon the product. There will be appropriate tests in each case. Please refer to [http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file24685.pdf](http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file24685.pdf) for more information.

**Filling Material Supplied Direct to Consumers**

Any filling material (whether foam or non-foam) supplied for use in furniture or re-upholstery must pass the appropriate test.

**Furnishings Fabrics**
Any fabric supplied to provide or replace the permanent cover on furniture (except mattresses, bed-bases, pillows, cushions and baby nests) must pass the appropriate match test(s). This depends on which depend on whether the fabric is to be used to provide a visible or non-visible part of the cover.

Alternatively, if the item is made of one of the fabrics listed below, it may be offered in non-match-resistant form, provided that the furniture has or will contain a fire-resistant interliner which itself passes the specified test. These fabrics to which this alternative applies are made from material containing at least 75 per cent by weight of cotton, flax, viscose, modal, silk, or wool, whether used separately or together and are not coated with polyurethane or a polyurethane preparation.

**Household Upholstered Furniture**

This includes all upholstered seating furniture as well as upholstered articles such as music stools, foot stools and pouffes, bean bags and floor cushions, which are intended for private use in a dwelling, pre-assembled or not.

The Regulations apply to household furniture which contains any amount of filling material. Household upholstered furniture (whether complete or ordered with the customers’ own choice of fabric) must:

- Pass the appropriate cigarette test(s)
- Contain only filling material which passes the appropriate test(s); and
- The cover fabric of this furniture must also pass the appropriate match test(s) or the alternative route to compliance described, and carry the appropriate display and permanent labels

**Cigarette and Match Resistance Requirements**

The cover fabric on all parts of upholstered furniture (whether or not the cover is over a filling material) must be match resistant and the upholstery must be cigarette resistant. The Regulations provide separate tests for different parts of the cover on the furniture; there are modified tests for the areas of the furniture that are not visible.

All other parts of the furniture that are visible parts and fabric cover on these parts must also pass the full match test. Visible parts of the upholstery must also pass the full cigarette test.

Where the furniture has a cover that is made of one of the fabrics referred to above and a fire-resistant interliner, it may be used in a non-match-resistant form.

**Filling Material**

Any material that is included for the purpose of filling or stuffing the upholstered parts of the furniture must pass the appropriate test(s). This includes pads for insulating springs, tack rolls and piping cords which are contained within the fabric cover of the furniture.
Foam fillings - i.e. polyurethane foam in slab or cushion foam - must always be tested separately whether or not they are subsequently combined with other filling materials in the furniture.

**Parts of the furniture not subject to the requirements of the Regulations**

- Braids and trimmings which are removable features
- Lightweight scrims for foams and other fillings
- Springs

**Cane furniture**

Upholstery for cane furniture is often supplied by a manufacturer other than the producer of the frame. Seating and back cushioning supplied with cane furniture must meet the requirements for household upholstered furniture (they cannot be regarded as cushions for which there are different requirements).

**Headboards of Beds**

Upholstered head-boards must meet the requirements for household upholstered furniture. Accordingly, they should pass the tests required for this type of furniture. You should note that the fabric on the back of a head-board is considered a visible fabric for the purposes of the Regulations.

**Mattresses and Bed-bases**

1) **Filling Material**

The Regulations apply to filling material in these items which must meet the requirements described. For mattresses and bed-bases with a single filling, the filling material should be tested using BS 5852 methods of test.

A different method of testing is provided for mattresses and bed-bases which contain two or more filling materials.

2) **Fabric Cover or Ticking**

The Furniture Regulations do not specify fire resistance requirements relating to the fabric cover of bed-bases and mattresses. However, the General Product Safety Regulations 1994 1, which implement the EC Directive on general product safety, place a general duty on suppliers of consumer products to supply only products which are safe.

The relevant requirements for beds are listed under the “Low Hazard” classification of the standard.

**Pillows, Cushions and Seat pads**
The Regulations apply only to the filling material of pillows, cushions and pads of the type supplied for use on the seats of wooden chairs. Foam fillings must pass the specified test. When non-foam fillings are used, either the filling material itself must pass the appropriate test or, if the item has an undercover, then the filling material together with the undercover must pass the specified test. The Regulations do not apply to the decorative cover of cushions and seat pads, or to covers for these items which are sold separately.

**Bean Bags and Floor Cushions**

The requirements for these items are the same as those for household upholstered furniture.

**Loose Covers and Stretch Covers for Furniture**

This refers to covers supplied separately from furniture. Loose covers for upholstered furniture must be match-resistance when tested over standard polyurethane foam.

**Second-hand Furniture**

The Regulations apply to second-hand furniture sold by a person in the course of business (including auction). However, they do not apply to furniture manufactured before 1 January 1950.