

# Information Sheet

## Furniture & Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988 (amended 1993)

### Summary

The 1988 regulations required materials used in the construction of upholstered furniture to have improved levels of fire resistance. All furniture sold by a retailer after 1st March 1990 was required to conform. In 1993 the regulations were amended to require those engaged in the letting of accommodation to ensure that all furniture supplied is compliant.

The regulations apply to: beds, headboards of beds and mattresses; sofas, armchairs; sofa-beds, futons and other convertibles; nursery furniture; garden furniture which is suitable for use in dwelling; scatter cushions and seat pads; pillows; loose and stretch covers for furniture.

The regulations do not apply to: antique furniture or any furniture made before 1<sup>st</sup> January 1950; bed-clothes (including duvets); loose covers for mattresses; pillowcases; curtains and carpets; furniture supplied by the tenant.

All relevant upholstered articles must have fire resistant filling material. New upholstered articles are required to be appropriately labelled with the prescribed fire safety warning labels. Upholstered articles must have passed a match resistance test. The combination of the cover fabric and the filling material must have passed a cigarette resistance test.

In order to prove compliance it is beneficial that safety labels are present. All new furniture and covers (except mattresses and bed-bases for some reason) by law must carry a permanent and non-detachable label.

Trading standards officers has indicated that in lack of labels on furniture will be overlooked provided that the landlord or agent can supply reasonably conclusive proof that a particular item of furniture is compliant. A copy of the receipt giving date and place of purchase should be adequate.