



Nottinghamshire
County Council

Business Information

The sale of second-hand upholstered furniture

All second-hand upholstered furniture supplied in the course of business must meet the requirements of the Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988, as amended.

The flammability tests that such furniture must meet are specified in British Standards 5852 and 6807.

In general these are:

- Upholstered furniture must have fire resistant filling material;
- most cover fabrics must have passed a match resistance test;
- the combination of cover fabric and filling material must have passed a cigarette resistance test.

Domestic upholstered furniture includes: three piece suites, settees, ottomans, stools, pouffes, sofa beds and other items with upholstered seating; beds and divans including bases and headboards; children's furniture, cots, carry cots, playpens, pushchairs, highchairs and similar nursery items; cushions, pillows and mattresses and upholstered garden furniture.

If you supply new or second-hand furniture in the course of trade, which does not comply with the Regulations, you are committing an offence under the Consumer Protection Act 1987.

All new furniture made after 1988 must carry a permanent label, which shows how the furniture meets the requirements of the Regulations. Mattresses and bed-bases will bear different labels to those on other furniture.

Please turn over...

What you should do

- Ensure that upholstered furniture you supply complies with the above requirements.
- Look for an indication of compliance, for example a sewn-in, permanent label. Furniture without a permanent label probably will not comply with the flammability requirements.

Exemptions

- Upholstered furniture made before 1950.
- Materials used to re-cover or re-upholster furniture made before 1950.
- Upholstered furniture for export outside the United Kingdom.

This leaflet is a brief summary of the law regarding the sale of second-hand upholstered furniture. It is not an authoritative document on the law and is only intended for guidance. For further details or clarification contact the Trading Standards Service.



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