

FURNITURE SAFETY

Upholstered furniture includes sofas, beds and mattresses, cushions, nursery furniture e.g. cots, high chairs etc, furniture in caravans and garden furniture with soft covering if it is suitable for use indoors.



Upholstered furniture that has been reupholstered or refilled since 1988 must meet fully the current legal requirements regardless of when the furniture was originally made.

How can you tell if furniture complies?

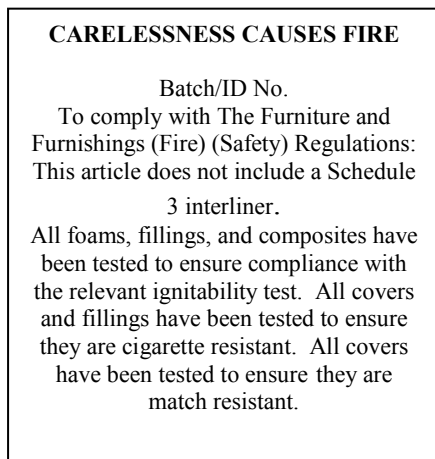
All new furniture except

- mattresses and bed bases
- pillows, scatter cushions and seat pads
- loose covers and stretch covers for furniture

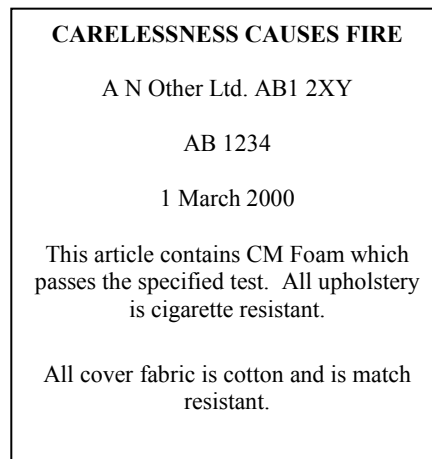
must carry a display label at the point of sale. It is the retailer's responsibility to ensure that furniture on display carries the correct label. Furniture sold as a collection of items, such as three piece suites must carry the appropriate display label on each individual item. The display label must be attached in a prominent position.

It is also an offence to supply such furniture without a permanent label. Examples of permanent labels are as follows:

Examples of a label giving full information



Example of a shorter label



What are the fire-safety requirements?

- All furniture must pass the cigarette test
- Filling materials must be fire resistant
- Covers must pass the match test

The Department of Business, Innovation and Skills has produced detailed guidance notes about the furniture safety regulations. If you would like to see this information, go to www.bis.gov.uk or contact the Environmental Health Department on 028 9335 8000.