

**International Association of Bedding and Furniture Law Officials (IABFLO)**

2010 Annual Meeting – Ramada Inn & Conference Center, Charlotte, NC

March 4-5, 2010

**Wednesday, March 3, 2010**

The 75th International IABFLO Conference was called to order at 8:30 am by Margaret Davis, IABFLO President. Welcome and Introductions were made.

Margaret let the associates know that Joan Jordan was unable to attend the conference as her father passed away last week.

As a review of the agenda: Wednesday - Flammability presentation by John McCormack, private fire consultant, Rest Assured Mattress Recycling Program presentation by Michelle Taparauskay of Conigliaro Industries, Inc., Bedbugs, Nolan Newton of North Carolina, Nomenclature on Law Labels, prepared by Thelma Cross of Ohio, presented by Blake Boyer of IDFL. Thursday – ISPA issues by Ryan Trainer, VP of ISPA, Recycling issues using soda pop bottles presentation by Peter Zhu of Non Woven Recycling, State and Associate Members roundtable.

**Introductions**

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| American Law Label / Global Registration | Rocco Bruno          |
| American Signature Inc.                  | Steven Lee           |
| American Signature Inc.                  | Cheryl Dennison      |
| American Textile                         | Kathleen Derr        |
| Arden Companies                          | Sara Wisner          |
| ATICO                                    | Ginny Poyer          |
| Blue Ridge Home Fashions                 | Jim England          |
| Bureau Veritas                           | Ellen Roaldi         |
| Carpenter Company                        | Cheryl Haynes        |
| Conigliaro Industries                    | Michelle Taparauskay |
| Dorel/Cosco Home & Office                | Tanya Hiday          |
| Dorel                                    | Tracy Beaulieu       |
| Dupont                                   | Anthony Palermo      |
| Dupont                                   | Annette Kim          |
| Dupont/Tyvek                             | Dale Boyle           |
| E & E (JLA Home)                         | Kevin Pessoa         |
| Evenflo                                  | Susan Staigl         |
| Fire Science Consultant                  | John McCormack       |
| Fisher Price                             | Theresa Rojek        |
| Graco                                    | Bob Crowley          |
| IDFL                                     | Blake Boyer          |
| IKEA                                     | Lisa Highfill        |
| JC Penney                                | Marie Mote           |
| Jay Franco Company                       | Davis Mclsaac        |
| Jim Thompson & Associates/Serta Rental   | David Gradick        |

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|--|-------------------|
| Kolcraft                                 | Donald Moffett    |
| Legal Label/Law Offices of Joanne Matice | Maggie Terry      |
| Noble Pine Products                      | Steve Goldrich    |
| Non Woven Recycling/Miracle Resource     | Peter Zhu         |
| Parkersburg Bedding                      | Cheryl Persinger  |
| Pier 1                                   | Molly Cauffiel    |
| Printcraft                               | Marvin Smith      |
| Printcraft                               | Joshua Milici     |
| Printcraft                               | Mark Bivens (?)   |
| North Carolina                           | Charles Johnson   |
| North Carolina                           | Sam Hancock       |
| North Carolina                           | Bill Vinson       |
| North Carolina                           | Josh Edwards      |
| North Carolina                           | Nolan Newton      |
| North Carolina                           | Teresa Adams      |
| Québec                                   | Richard Brouillet |
| Southern Label                           | Tad Bailey        |
| Texas                                    | Dana Shuler       |
| Utah                                     | Michelle Jack     |
| Virginia                                 | Margaret Davis    |

Budget constraints have cost us many people who would generally attend, even if IABFLO offered to pay for the travel, the state employees are not always given permission to attend.

Margaret Davis stressed the importance of the IABFLO meetings in leveling the playing field between importers and manufacturers as well as the contacts that are made with state officials. As state officials we welcome your questions and the opportunity to resolve issues for you.

**Presentation**

John McCormick, Independent Fire Science Consultant gave an update on CPSC standards in regard to Bed Clothing, Mattresses and Furniture. His PowerPoint presentation had many photos and helpful information followed by a question and answer session.

- The CPSC and the Bureau has a list of about 12 labs in the country that can do testing. CPSC have now put two standards in place, 1632 and 1633 that supersede the California Technical Bulletins.
- Boston has fire standards for Mattresses and Furniture. Boston does not have a lab. They rely on a third party lab for results and then Boston interprets the results.
- CPSC is still working on the standards for Furniture flammability and the one that is currently before the US law making process is the model from 2007. John can see some gaps in the proposed standard. Only applicable to furniture with contiguous seat and back.

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- California has introduced Technical Bulletin 117 for furniture flammability. If and when a federal standard for national residential furniture flammability standard, such as 1634, is put in place California would rewrite their laws.
- If you take the ticking/covering off of a mattress and replace it, that is considered renovation and is then subject to passing the 1632/1633 standards as a new prototype. (Consult with Allyson Tenney at (301) 504-7567 E-mail: [atenney@cpsc.gov](mailto:atenney@cpsc.gov) [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).) Renovation becomes a very sticky issue because if you change one part to meet one standard you may be compromising a different standard.
- A discussion of mattresses with “removable” top layers ensued. Apparently there are some units that are trying to pass the requirements so that they can be put into the rental industry.
- Definition of mattress includes the following products subject to standard: adult and youth mattresses, crib mattresses, portable crib mattresses, bunk bed mattresses, futons, water beds and air beds containing upholstery filling material between ticking and core, detachable mattresses used in items of upholstered furniture (convertible sofa beds, corner group beds, day beds, roll-a-way beds, high risers and trundle beds)
- Definition of Mattress Pad includes (but not limited to) absorbent mattress pads, flat decubitus pads and convoluted foam pads totally enclosed in ticking
- Does not know too much about the CPSIA (Consumer Product Safety Information Act) mostly is to “beef” up the tracking systems.

Mattress pad kits, such as a Bed in a Box type product: Maggie Terry addressed the issue and stated that the pad and cover are sold in the same box with the intention that the consumer will use the two items together on a bed which becomes a mattress pad and therefore must meet the 1632/1633 standards.

Margaret indicated that Mary Toro gave a presentation last night at the ISPA conference and stated that ISPA will be making the presentation available.

### **Break**

### **Presentation**

Presentation by Michelle Taparausky of Conigliaro Industries, Inc. – Rest Assured Mattress Recycling Program.

- Primary goal is to not land fill (keep things out of the landfill).
- The company became incorporated in 1990 and primarily recycles products that are considered “difficult” and they no longer recycle paper.
- Plascrete is a mixture of post consumer plastics and concrete which gives a stable yet lightweight product.
- Packaging, carpet, construction material, and mattresses are the company’s main focus.
- They are currently in 46 states with 48 processing facilities.

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- Recycling rates exceed 95% and nothing is incinerated.
- They are trying to keep their distance within 100 miles so they are initiating areas where there are warehouse facilities to help.
- One trailer of mattresses will probably yield slightly less than 4 tons of recyclable material.
- Plastics are difficult to separate and those are disposed of, the majority of these mattresses come from hospitals. (This is what makes up the 5% that does not get recycled.)
- Each trailer of mattresses is the equivalent of two swimming pools of waste kept out of landfills.
- Three (3) mattresses take up the same amount of space as about 36,000 pounds of regular solid waste because of the compression rate.
- The actual landfill cost is much more than the landfill charges (approx \$10 a unit) because of the space issue.
- Being green is extremely important and Conigliaro Industries will certify that they deconstruct the items and they are not resold.
- Big companies often use service providers rather than delivering furniture themselves.
- They do special projects as well as one time deals. Private individuals in the Boston area are able to drop off and pay the “Gate Rate” of \$25-\$35 per unit depending on the size. Business contracts are considerably less than the individual rate.

David Graddick stated that the three (3) big S’s of mattresses (Sealy, Serta, and Simmons) most of the time will not take the old mattresses back into their trucks as they do not want the used mattresses back in their warehouses.

Margaret indicated that many mattresses end up on the curbside which begs the argument that someone can pick it up and then take it to their home. In the end they may have a possible bed bug infestation.

**Lunch** served at the hotel – sponsored by IABFLO

A special thanks to the following companies for their donations: Blue Ridge Home Fashions, Legal Label, IKEA, Printcraft, American Law Label, Global Registration, Pacific Coast Feather, and Triboro Quilts.

### **Presentation**

Presentation by Nolan Newton on Bed Bugs: Power point presentation given with descriptions of life cycle, stages of growth, feeding needs, life span (up to two years in a controlled atmosphere in the lab).

- They can feed on other mammals besides humans such as your pets (dogs, cats etc.).

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- Prime feeding time is between 2:00 am and 3:00 am when everything is dark and quiet.
- Bed bugs are commonly referred to as Chinchies by grand folks. (Real Chinchies are the ones that leave brown spots on your grass.)
- Bedbugregistry.com will tell you where they have been most recently reported.
- Before the 1950's bedbugs were accepted as a fact. Between the 1950's and the 1990's bedbugs were gone in developed countries with the help of DDT. After the 1990's a resurgence of bedbugs occurred.
- Bedbugs are not associated with diseases in North America.
- Treatment costs can be very high – \$500 – \$800 per room up to \$5,000 per house. \$20,000 to \$25,000 for “covered” home treatment (plastic tent over the home). Recommendation is to get a pesticide professional and get a guarantee as you will probably need them to come back two, three even four times.
- Heavy infestations will give a hotel room a sweet fruity smell sort of like raspberries.
- Beware of free furniture.
- Education, inspection, chemical, and non chemical treatments are the best way to control infestations. Total release foggers will not kill bedbugs. If you do need to have pesticide companies come to your home or business be sure to take things away from the walls and remove the drawers from the dressers. This way they can spray all of the cracks and crevices.
- Costs, apartments \$200 – \$1,000 per unit, hotels \$150 – \$500 room using canine detection.
- Great online resources.
- How do they compare to scabies? – Treatments are different. Scabies are parasites under the webbing of the skin.
- Head lice incidents have dropped some but are easily transmitted by sharing of scarves, hats and simply bumping heads together.
- It is recommended that you do not put used mattresses in the same truck that new mattresses are delivered in.
- It is also recommended that companies that use trucks for hauling mattresses and furniture treat the trucks frequently for bedbugs.

A special recognition and congratulations was given to Charles Johnson for serving IABFLO for 39 years.

### **Break**

2011 conference announcement: Austin, TX the week of March 28<sup>th</sup> with the Associates meetings on Wednesday and Thursday, March 30 – 31, 2011 at the Residence Inn.

IABFLO Officers were announced:

President: Joan Jordan, CT

Vice President: Sam Hancock, NC

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Secretary: Michelle Jack, UT

Treasurer: Dana Shuler, TX

(March 10, 2010 IABFLO received the resignation of the position of Treasurer from Dana Shuler of Texas. Margaret Davis of Virginia is the new treasurer.)

**Presentation**

Blake Boyer of IDFL gave the power point presentation on terminology nomenclature that Thelma Cross of Ohio sent for the conference.

- Terminology
- Natural fibers vs. synthetic fibers
- Animal by-products must be sterilized
- Polyester fiber – whether it is made from a virgin state or recycled/reprocessed bottles a lab cannot tell the difference unless there is color. (i.e. Green from the green soda bottles.)
- Many photos of products and law labels were in the presentation.
- Any questions please contact: [OHIOBEDDING@COM.STATE.OH.US](mailto:OHIOBEDDING@COM.STATE.OH.US) or call 614-995-0723.

Margaret said she would distribute copies of the presentation.

**Dinner** served at the hotel – IABFLO sponsored.

**Thursday March 4, 2010**

Introductions were made around the room.

Charles Johnson of North Carolina was excused from today's meeting as he was notified last night that his wife has become ill with pneumonia.

**Presentation**

Companies and states were invited to listen via phone conference to Peter Zhu during his power point presentation on recycled soda bottles.

- Regenerated polyester is the main focus today.
- He brought many samples including fabrics and carpets made of virgin material and recycled bottle chips.
- A small magnifier was available for the viewing of the fibers.
- The tensile strength is much better from the recycled material than from the virgin raw material.

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- Two different kinds of bottle chips are obtained. Coke (soda) bottles and water bottles are separated because of the stickiness created from the syrups and gasses while being melted.
- Staple fiber is easier to make than long fiber.
- Bottle chips that contain the PVC from the bottle caps and the bottles themselves are PET. The PVC creates small dots in the fabric when it slips through the process of separating it from the PET. He has heard that Germany has a new process for automatically separating these.
- Environmental Impact- According to the EPA –Environmental Protection Agency.
  - Recycled PET vs. Virgin Polyester
    - 2/3 less energy usage
    - 2/3 less sulfur dioxide emissions
    - 50% less of nitrous oxide emissions
    - 90% less water usage
- There are more and more products being made from the recycled fibers and not necessarily the virgin material which requires oil.
- They can even make recycled soda bottles back into more recycled bottles. Coca Cola has the biggest recyclable bottle facility in the world located in Spartanburg, South Carolina.
- Cost of recycled material could be as much as 90% cheaper than using the virgin raw material depending on the grade of the end product. The higher end recycled products can sometimes be more expensive than if virgin product is used.
- Sterility is guaranteed.
- There is a washing process to remove the sticky soda remains.
- Some challenges are obtaining a stable source and quality product. Soda bottles, such as Coke, create gasses which can sometimes create problems.
- Currently China is the only place that can make the recycled product into spun polyester.
- Recycled is sometimes blended with other components for various uses depending on the end product requirement.
- 500 degrees Fahrenheit is the melting point. The buildings run for 24 hours. It takes 14 hours to bring the temperature back up to the 500 degrees Fahrenheit when a building is shut down.
- Some stores require certain percentages of their end products utilize recycled products.
- More and more end products are being able to be moved over to the injection molding process.
- Technology is moving very fast now.
- Color vs. clear does not affect the performance of any of the products made. The only difference with those is that if a client insists on very clear color then the costs could go up and if very clear is required then perhaps sometimes a virgin product may be more suitable.

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- Combinations of virgin fibers vs. recycled fibers could be driven by many reasons, how it runs through the machines, what the customer may want, even the final costs.
- Thelma in Ohio stated that many of the reasons they consider this as new is because there is no way for their lab to tell the difference. [peterzhu@miracle-sh.com](mailto:peterzhu@miracle-sh.com)

### **Break**

### **ROUNDTABLE / ASSOCIATE MEMBER REPORTS**

#### State Reports

Virginia does not have much new. For more than a year Margaret has been working to get “dual” licenses. Cathy has returned to the office to help with paperwork.

North Carolina – Only issues licenses to the manufacturer. They do not issue licenses to importers. Legislation that was pending has been taken out. North Carolina regulates items that are commonly used for reclining or sleeping. This also includes dual purpose items such studio couches and sofa beds. Excluded are padded chairs, as they are not intended for reclining or sleeping. Dr. Newton has tried to get legislation through on used upholstered furniture.

Utah – Fees increased from \$85.00 to \$105.00 as of July 1, 2009. Original requests for licensure still need to be submitted with a check and application however once licensed you may renew online. You may look up licenses online. Utah still issues joint licenses. Utah’s Rule R70-101 has changed mainly for grammatical corrections and for the clothing manufacturers. *“Articles labeled “Down” shall contain a minimum of 75% down and Plumules. The minimum down cluster percentage must be listed.” (R70-101-6B1)* There is a House Bill (HB 332) currently before the Utah Legislature to change the definition of New Material. There are about two weeks left in Utah’s session and I see no reason that it will not pass.

John McCormack – Explained the new name for the Bureau is now “Bureau of Electronic and Appliance Repair and Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation” in California, Rick Fong is the manager. As a consultant to the state of California he will bring the issue of the “green” fiber back to the state.

Texas – Dana Shuler – Any comments please submit to her as they are in the process of changing bedding items. Dana is the new lead for the program for Consumer Safety.

Québec – Richard Brouillet – New computer program for a few permits. Once in place you will be able to renew online, original will still have to be submitted via paper check. They are working on a publication for commonly asked questions that will be available on the web. He will be checking with his counterparts in Ontario and Manitoba on the

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regenerated polyester products. They will be asking public laboratories for help with the green issues using recycled material of many kinds especially those using textile fibers from used clothes. He would be interested in hearing from anyone that may have information on those issues. Quebec has an agreement with the other provinces to try and keep things uniform. Any new items he will be sure to keep you informed. Montreal would be a great place for an IABFLO meeting in the future. TSSA – Technical Standard and Safety Association is in Ontario and are a non profit agency that was mandated by the government to work on some safety issues but they are not a government agency.

### **Presentation**

ISPA – International Sleep Products Association – Ryan Trainer – Update on industry.

- ISPA Green Task Force.
- Last three years has been very hard.
- Number of units produced is the same from 2009 as was produced in 1995.
- ISPA is eager to work with IABFLO to help with the newer terminology.
- FTC is looking into the “green washing” issues that are happening in the industry.
- Consumer education, proposal has been sent to the Consumer Product Safety Commission to get the word out to consumers regarding the fire hazards of the used and renovated mattresses.
- Request was put in last summer and if accepted it would go into effect this November.
- Efforts on the recycling (not renovating) front.
  - Steel is the most valuable by-product and can be made into new steel products.
  - Foam is taken and made into carpet pads.
  - Fibers and fabrics are used in the filtration media.
  - Wood is used as landscaping mulch, animal litter and fuel.
- At present ISPA has identified 125 mattress recyclers throughout North America and is helping to establish more.
  - They are looking at a mechanized recycling method (a tire shredder) rather than manual labor.
  - They estimate that less than two percent of mattresses are being recycled.

Margaret asked about certification from the CPSC and the mattresses regarding the fire retardant materials that come across state borders.

CPSC has been very clear that the renovators are held to the same standards as the new mattresses from 1633. Things are changing and they are in the process of putting a database online and won't be as difficult to get the information out of them. There is a way to get information from them and Joan offered to try to help when state officials are running into problems. CPSIA is empowering the AG's in each state to help with enforcement and are working in cooperation with each of the states.

Ryan indicated that CPSC has a hot line he will send the information to Margaret.

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**Rountable Continued**

David Graddick - Serta Rental –

- Asked VA about whether or not he needed a renovator or sanitizer license? Margaret indicated that in VA he would need both.
- They have been trying to educate the rental stores with regards to the bedbugs. They are taking steps and are recommending to their customers (the rental companies) that an “emergency kit” with various items such as a disposable camera and quarantine bags (disposable plastic storage bag with a bedbug zipper) goes into every truck. Infestation reports and full descriptions of what everything is going to look like utilizing the items from the emergency kits are recommended to be used by the truck drivers. These kits are not meant for the end user. Procedures have been put in place but enforcement is incredibly difficult. They also recommend sanitizing the trucks.
- As a side note, bedbugs also infest computers because on the inside it is always warm and dark.
- Think about the fact that every time you go to a hotel or on a cruise you are renting a used bed.

John McCormick – Technical Bulletin in California (TB) 604 was suspended and in the meantime Assemblyman Mark Leno of San Francisco started a new Senate Bill 1291 which would establish a multi agency task force, both points are probably out.

Ellen Roaldi - A new e-tool book will be published in March 15<sup>th</sup> by Bureau Veritas. A minimal fee will be charged and issued to one person and one person only in each company.

? - Consider accepting third party test results. The CPSC mandates third party testing and accepts those results on a federal level.

Marie Mote and Lisa Highfill both thanked us for the wonderful speakers and the movement on the regenerated/reclaimed soda bottle issues.

Maggie Terry – Legal Label

- Car Seats and the children’s tracking label on the bottom of the law label on the bottom of the car seats. Joan Jordan – IABFLO has always assumed its responsibilities in the other information section are that if it is a federal requirement then the children’s tracking number would be accepted in the other section of the law label. The other information section was originally put there for federal regulations so that manufacturers would not have to do double and triple tags.
- Regarding the per item fee for some of the states – Who is responsible, the manufacturer or the retailer? Ohio stated that it would be whoever brings the item into the state.

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- Regarding Heat rooms and second hand furniture – What are the heat requirements? NC is 230° for 2 hours and were put into the law for the micro organisms. VA only has a chemical statement in the law – Margaret will have to visit that when there are people interested in heat process. OH is 230° for a minimum of 2 hours – TX is 230° for 1 hour 15 minutes.
- Second Hand Labeling – Will the states accept having different/multiple state permit numbers on the label? VA stated that in VA there should only be one number as that is how the licenses are issued. It is an issue within each state and they do not accept having other numbers on those tags.

Tanya Hiday – Dorel Juvenile Group

- She is waiting for California and Ohio to decide on the non resilient filling materials. Thelma from Ohio indicated that they will be sending an official request to Rick Fong, the Bureau Chief in California. Thelma will let Tanya know what the outcome is.
- The License - The sister company wants to use the same number that is currently issued to Dorel as the importer and the foreign company as the manufacturer. Various discussions went around the state representatives. Rocco suggested that they would be better to register the number to just the manufacturer so that all of their companies can use the number. Rocco also suggested to her that they not have the numbers issued jointly.
- Can she print the law label with a bold double line and have the Canadian label on the right hand side? The only state that will not allow that is North Carolina.

Rocco – American Law Label/Global Registration

- Is now running digital printing straight from the computer.
- A new website was launched a few weeks ago.
- They will be launching a new line with a Certified Vendor Program. They will be able to track and monitor their licenses to help with renewal and making sure that all the manufacturers are in a current status for the retail stores to log into and review. Possible launch date is May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Tad Bailey - Southern Label thanks everyone for the show.

Bob Crowley - Graco

- Similar situations as Dorel.
- They maintain the manufacturer licenses - How long they should maintain the old supplier number? VA recommends that they maintain it for one year from your last shipment date into VA. CT if the license isn't current when found in the store they will go back and get the date of delivery and if it was previous to the license becoming inactive then no further action is taken. NC as long as the product is in a retail establishment and offered for sale the manufacturer is required to maintain the license. Margaret offered that one possible option is to pull them out of NC when you only have a few items left and send them to a non-IABFLO state. UT is similar to CT but has found that some companies choose to keep the license active

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for that additional year to avoid all the letters that may be sent when the items are found. TX – will send out a notice of violation when something is found on the shelves that are not properly registered. Comments are then accepted to remove the violation and each item is viewed on a case by case basis.

Cheryl Persinger – Parkersburg Bedding - hopes to be back again.

Steven Lee – American Signature

- Double sided printing? Not allowed on the back of the law labels in the U.S.
- Units reported for fees – Is it units sold and not units in inventory? – NC says yes, it is a per piece price for units sold in a calendar year.

Keven Pasa – JLA Home – Thank you for having him – He will talk to Bureau Veritas after the session.

Blake Boyer - IDFL

- Any down and feather questions please e-mail him at [info@idfl.com](mailto:info@idfl.com).
- A new website is coming soon.
- Can a lot number be printed on the back? All states said no, and Margaret reminded everyone that is also precludes the retailer from putting price tags on the law labels as well. TX stated that their law states that the information cannot be concealed and if it is on the back then the consumer cannot see it.

David McIsaac – Jay Franco – First time attendance – very informative.

Marvin Smith – Print Craft – Label printing in both the United States and China.

Ellen Roaldi - Bureau Veritas

- How frequently is the web site updated - Margaret explained that we have been graciously accepting IDFL's work to keep the website going. We will be working on this next year.
- What is the possibility of putting together a task force for the website? Joan addressed this by letting them know that she would love to talk to them regarding input/ideas - quick reference guides would also be helpful. She would like to have the companies various websites so that these can be listed with contact names. Ellen would like to have it more defined as to which state has what requirements and regulations.

**Dinner** in the hotel at 6:00 pm – Sponsored by Dupont and Print Craft

Meeting adjourned