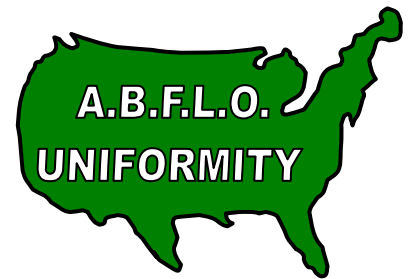




# A.B.F.L.O.



WELCOME TO NEW ORLEANS



## Association of Bedding and Furniture Law Officials, Inc.

Founded in 1936 as a National Forum for Uniformity, Enforcement, Testing and Terminology within the various state programs

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ABFLO NEWS

Issue 7

### PA BEDDING CHIEF UPDATE

On Monday January 6, 2003 Mr. Richard Geisler suffered a stroke at work. He was rushed to the hospital and underwent emergency surgery that evening to relieve pressure on the brain and remove fluid.

At this time he is in stable condition and is responding to treatment. Anyone wishing to send a card my do so to his home address:

A. Richard Geisler  
35 Beach Farm Rd.  
Wormleysburg, PA 17043

Richard has been a part of this industry for 40 years and we all wish him a speedy recovery.

### DuPONT'S NEW ELASTIC FIBER

The FTC has recognized a new generation of elastic fibers created by DuPont. Lycra is DuPont's tradename for its Spandex line of stretch fibers. The FTC subclass for this new fiber will be "T-400" and it will be marketed under the Lycra brand.

DuPont has applied for a generic fiber term in Europe where T-400 is temporary categorized as "Elastic Fiber". It is not likely that this type of fiber will be used as hidden filling material, but in the event that it is, ABFLO will address the need for a generic term to be used on law labels in the U.S. market.

The new fiber can be used in woven and knit construction. Currently there are only apparel products on the market containing this new fiber.



HAPPY  
VALENTINE'S  
DAY

### EUROPEAN SAFETY CONCERNS

This past Sept. the European Bedding Industries Association (EBIA) held their general assembly in Cannes, France. Guess what the major topics of discussion were? Safety, flammability, and disposal of used bedding.

The Technical Committee for the EBIA presented the highlights of a new European Directive concerning the general safety of products. This is a new law, which will become mandatory in March 2004. In short, the law states that all products put on the market must be safe in the use for which they are intended.

The disposal of used mattresses is also a major problem overseas. After many studies and field testing of secondhand bedding the committee presented its findings on the disposal of used bedding. Their report stated that the best solution for the bedding industry would be to incinerate used bedding, particularly in light of all the health problems and also because of environmental concerns.

### CALIFORNIA UPDATE

Governor Gray Davis has appointed Lynn Morris as the new Chief of the Bureau of Home Furnishing & Thermal Insulation. Lynn was the Deputy Director of the Board of Relations for the DCA.

On January 16, 2003 California informed SPSC that it intends to propose the use of the NIST dual burner, instead of their TB-129 T-burner for the ignition source of open-flame testing.

### 2003 INTERNATIONAL TOY FAIR

The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American International Toy Fair takes place Feb.16 thru 19<sup>th</sup>, 2003 in New York City at the Jacob Javits Convention Center. The toy fair is the largest toy show in the Western Hemisphere with over 2,000 exhibitors and 14,000 buyers from 83 different countries.

By special invitation of the Toy Industry Association, state officials from Ohio and Pennsylvania along with Alan Schoem, Dir. of Compliance, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission will be the key speakers at two seminars "Toy Safety" and "Licensing & Labeling Requirements".

### CHINA BEDDING INDUSTRY

I received a call from a representative of the Chinese Bedding Industry requesting our help in establishing regulations and labeling standards. They would like to use our regulations and tagging requirements as a model to establish a bedding program in China. Without any regulations or labeling they are experiencing major quality problems with used filling materials being found in new mattresses and secondhand bedding being sold as new.

### FULL STEAM AHEAD

Final plans are set and New Orleans is awaiting our arrival. Please make your room reservation before February 4<sup>th</sup> and email Joan Jordan so she can have a count for breakfast and dinner reservations.

Weather permitting ABFLO has planned a dinner/jazz cruise on the steamboat NATCHES for Thursday night. The two hour cruise will take you back to when cotton was king and life was as slow and graceful as the currents on the Mississippi.