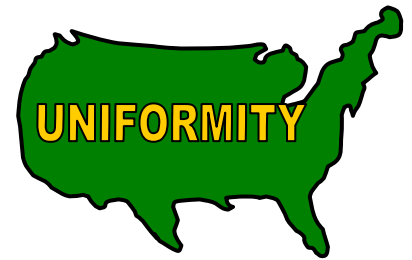




I.A.B.F.L.O.



International 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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New Filling Material

A number of items such as pillows and stuffed toys are appearing in the market place with a new type of filling material. Actually the material itself has been around for a long time, Polystyrene, but it is the size that is different. The Styrofoam is being made into very small beads ranging in size from 8 mm to 14 mm which is smaller than a pin head.

The extremely small size of the polystyrene foam beads gives the product a feel of almost being fluid. There is a problem however; the beads are highly electrostatically charged. If a seam was to rip or a tear occur in the product the tiny beads would spill out and become a choking hazard to any child.

Pennsylvania has an electrostatic standard in their regulations. During independent testing the beads did not pass the electrostatic test. In order to permit the use of these beads they must be inner bagged. Currently small plastic pellets, sand or any other type of small material is inner bagged to prevent it from becoming a choking hazard.

TEXTILE IDENTIFICATION ACT

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Rules and Regulations Under The Textile Fiber Products Identification Act, 16 CFR Part 303 lists a number of regulations that IABFLO and a majority of the states have written into their state laws. For example: 16 CFR 303.4 states, All required information on the law label shall be set out in the English Language.

16 CFR 303.6 states, The respective generic names of all fibers present in a product shall be required to be used on the law label.

16 CFR 303.15 states, A law label is required to be affixed to each textile product and shall be conspicuous. The label shall be durable and remain attached to the product throughout any distribution, sale, resale and until sold or delivered to the ultimate consumer.

16 CFR 303.28 states, If a product is marketed and delivered in a package which is intended to remain unbroken and intact until after delivery to the consumer, the product in the package, and the package shall be labeled. If the package is transparent to the extent it allows for a clear reading of the label, the package is not required to be labeled.

16 CFR 303.29 states, When a product is made up of two or more parts, units or items and is sold as a single product or ensemble the requires information may be set out on a single label in such a manner as to separately show the fiber composition of each part, unit or item.

16 CFR 303.33 states, Each imported textile product shall be labeled with the name of the country where such product was processed or manufactured.

Each textile product made in the USA, either in whole or in part of imported materials, shall contain a label disclosing these facts.

Example: "Made in the USA of imported fabric from China" or "Shell

Made in India, Filled and Finished in USA".

As you can see some of these regulations have been the topic of discussion at the IABFLO meeting. When a state regulation is more stringent than the FTC requirement the state law supersedes the FTC standard. In states that have no regulations the FTC standards would prevail.

All of this information can be found on the IABFLO web site at: www.abflo.org

Click on the Federal Information page, click on the red FTC. On the left hand side of the FTC web site click on "For Business" when that page opens look on left hand side again and click on "Textile, Wool, Fur Apparel". A new page will open and again on the left under RULES click on "Rules & Regulations under the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act, click on TEXT.

BEDBUGS ARE BACK

After largely disappearing from the US after World War II the bedbug has made a big comeback in the past five years. This comeback is due largely to an increase in foreign travel and the fact that new pesticides are less potent than banned DDT.

Bedbugs are great hitchhikers; they travel very well on aircraft and ships. About the only way you can detect that you have bedbugs is if you start to notice tiny blood spots on the sheets and welts on your arms and chin. Besides beds, the bugs can live in walls and floors and can survive up to three months without a meal.