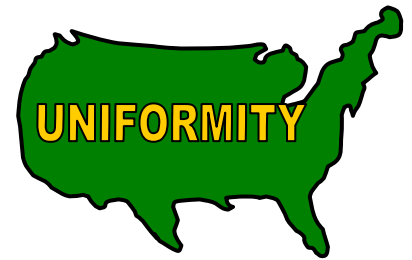




I.A.B.F.L.O.



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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TB 603 LAW LABEL

IABFLO has been working with California to insure that on January 1st, 2005 we have a uniform law label that will be acceptable in all of the various states.

At our national meeting in San Antonio, TX this past March IABFLO voted and approved a TB 603 law label. The label that was approved contained several small differences from the version that California had drafted. The Chief of the California Bureau of Home Furnishings at that time stated that they would address these differences when they opened the final rule making package.

Since our meeting in March Mr. Brian Stiger has been appointed Chief of the Bureau of Home Furnishing. Mr. Stiger has just announced that California has begun the process of evaluating the modification to the TB 603 law label to facilitate uniformity among the states. He went on to say that they plan to open a rule making package within the next 60 days which will, among other issues, include the changes to the TB 603 law label.

Mr. Stiger also stated that in the interim, they would be drafting policy that would allow appropriate flexibility during enforcement inspections. For example, if all of the required information is on the law label, California will by policy allow some flexibility on the placement of that information.

IABFLO would like to thank Mr. Stiger and the State of California for its strong support of the association and its commitment to maintain uniformity among the states.

TB 117 LAW LABEL

After TB 603 goes into effect on January 1st, 2005 in California, mattresses that contain polyurethane foam that is not treated or protected by a fire retardant will no longer need to carry a special warning label.

The state's current regulations for TB 117 requires a warning notice on the law label that the product does not meet the flammability requirements as describes in the TB 117 bulletin.

Since TB 603 sets substantially higher performance standards, the TB 117 labeling requirements will not be necessary for mattresses made after January 1st, 2005.

CPSC UPDATE

The Consumer Product Safety Commission announced this week that they are making progress on the development of a national mattress flammability standard. CPSC chairman, Hal Stratton said that a briefing package on the mattress flammability proposal will be available for the commissioners to review by the end of October. A vote on the proposal is expected by the end of the year.

After the commissioners vote, CPSC will issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. The notice will be followed by a 75-day public comment period. After the comment period, the commissioners will address the comments and a vote on the final standards will take place. A federal mattress flammability standard could go into effect as early as January 1st, 2006.

NEW TB 604

California has begun research on Technical Bulletin 604. The new bulletin will include open-flame standards for top of the bed items such as pillows, comforters and mattress pads sold in California. Testing and analysis of the data is underway but at this time there is no deadline set for the start of the formal rulemaking.

NEW BEDDING CONCEPT

A major mattress manufacturer has announced a new "create your own bed" program that will allow the consumer to select from a menu of bedding components and order a mattress built to their specifications.

The consumer would go to the retail store and view a menu of every component of the mattress. The consumer would choose the support system from open coil springs, encased coils, viscoelastic polyurethane foam core or latex core. They can also choose from different filling materials and even the outer covering of the mattress.

The order would be placed at the retail store and the mattress would be made to order at the factory and delivered directly to the consumer.

The manufacturer feels this new program will help the retailer cut the expense of extra handling and delivery. They also feel that this system could essentially eliminate the problems with returns and comfort guarantee exchanges. The manufacturer stated that the new program should be in place by July of 2005.