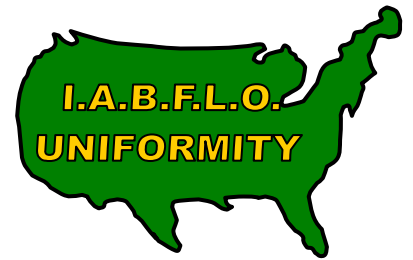




I.A.B.F.L.O.



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

April 2003

www.abflo.org

Issue 9

Flammability Rages On

California's TB 603 will now enter the 45 day public comment period. During the comment period, any interested party may file formal written comments with the Bureau of Home Furnishings. There will also be two public hearings held on April 22nd and April 24th.

The bureau will then review the comments and amend the regulations if needed. Upon completion of the rule making the bureau will submit the regulations to the California Office of Administrative Law. They have 30 business days to review the law to ensure that the bureau has followed all the legal requirements. The regulations are then filed with the Secretary of State to take effect on the date specified.

The bureau is also looking at a separate flammability rule for bedclothes that could be published this month, with a probable effective date of April, 2004. The bedclothes rule would cover such things as mattress pads, pillows, comforters, blankets, etc, etc.

Assuming no delay in the implementation of the standard, manufacturers will be required to comply with the new flammability standard on and after Jan.1st, 2004. Products manufactured prior to Jan 1st 2004 will not be covered by the new standard and retailers will be permitted to sell merchandise in stock, manufactured prior to the compliance date.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission continues their efforts to enact a federal flammability standard. All bedding sets manufactured in the U.S. may be required to comply with a federal open flame test within the next 12 to 24 months.

New World Market Center

As reported in a previous newsletter the new World Market Center broke ground in Las Vegas on March 21st. The first phase will be a 10 story building with 1.3 million square feet. The grand opening will be held in 2004 and the center will become the home for two semiannual home furnishing shows.

New Web Site

The federal government has unveiled a new web site that will allow the public to find, review and comment on new regulations published in the Federal Register.

Visitors can search by agency or by keyword to find documents open for comment. The 160 different agencies have over 4000 new rules issued each year to implement laws passed by Congress. The new web site is designed to encourage comments from those impacted by the laws. The new web site can be found at:

www.regulations.gov

Allergy Time

Springtime is the start of allergy season for millions of people. Allergens are lurking everywhere, but your home is the most likely spot to cause you the most problems. Indoor air, even in the cleanest of homes, is loaded with microscopic, invisible allergens and irritants. Mold spores, dust mites, pollen, and pet dander thrive in some of the most unlikely spots around the home.

Mold spores thrive on unfinished wood surfaces. Many products found in the home have back panels that are unfinished such as dressers, bed headboards, underneath drawers and

bottoms of stands and tables. Mold spores found in these areas could look like black streaks or yellowish circles. Another breeding ground for mold is the drip tray under the refrigerator. Every time the motor starts, spores are blown into the air.

The king of all hiding places is your mattress and upholstered furniture. They are reservoirs for dust mites, pet dander and many other allergens. Every time someone sits down on a sofa, chair or mattress these allergens are launched into the air. If you have a nagging cough, watery eyes or persistent snuffle one of these allergens could be the likely problem.

On the upside, there are plenty of things we can do to reduce, if not eliminate, these unwanted, unhealthy squatters.

If mold is found on unfinished wood, first clean and then lightly sand the area. Next seal the wood with varnish. Clean the tray under the refrigerator at least three times a year. Also wipe it down with a chemical or bleach. Vacuum the upholstered furniture once a week and you can also vacuum your mattress. Dust mites burrow deep into the stuffing of a mattress or pillow. A number of manufacturers sell allergy-free sealed mattress and pillow covers. Several companies make dust, mold, pollen and allergen reducing furnace and air conditioner filters. Try some of these ideas and maybe you can breathe a sigh of relief.

Update on Richard

Richard is out of the hospital and has been moved back to the health care center. The address is:

Masonic Home
Renaissance Unit
One Masonic Drive
Elizabethtown, PA 17022-2199
c/o Richard Geisler, Room 2807