



Notification Number: 1997/4/F

Decree on the prevention of risks linked to the behaviour in the event of fire of stuffed furniture and similar objects intended for use in domestic or communal places.

Date received : 30/12/1996
End of Standstill : Closed
Issue of comments by : Commission, Italy, Spain, Sweden
Issue of detailed opinion by : Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Portugal, United Kingdom

Message

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TELEX 002

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION - SG (97) D/50047/2
DIRECTIVES 83/189/EEC, 88/182/EEC AND 94/10/EC
TRANSLATION OF TELEX 001
NOTIFICATION 97/0004/F

- 3B1 : 9700047.EN

1. Structured Information Line

TLX 002 IND- 97 0004 F-- EN ----- 961230 --- ---

2. Member State

France

3. Department Responsible

Délégué interministériel aux normes
32 rue Monge
75005 Paris

3. Originating Department

Ministre délégué aux Finances et au Commerce extérieur
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4. Notification Number

97/0004/F

5. Title

Decree on the prevention of risks linked to the behaviour in
the event of fire of stuffed furniture and similar objects
intended for use in domestic or communal places.

6. Products Concerned

Stuffed furniture and similar objects.

7. Notification Under Another Act

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8. Main Content

This draft decree specifies that stuffed furniture and
similar objects must be designed and manufactured in such a
way as to be sufficiently resistant to normal sources of
ignition in the home and to reduce the risks of toxic effects
should this furniture combust.

It specifies that conformance with safety requirements is
certified by the marking "conforms with fire safety
requirements..." which must appear on the product and its



packaging.

In order to meet safety requirements, it specifies that the item of stuffed furniture or similar object must be manufactured in conformance with the French or foreign safety standards applicable to it, or conform to a model type bearing a certificate of conformance to safety requirements.

It specifies that limits of weight loss and study protocols of behaviour after ignition shall be specified by specific standards. As a temporary measure however, these limits and study protocols shall be set by a Ministerial Order.

In order to improve consumer information on the prevention of risks, it states that stuffed furniture and similar objects must be accompanied by a technical identification sheet containing useful indications concerning the range of usage, assembly instructions, instructions for use and safety precautions to be observed.

9. Brief Statement of Grounds

The purpose of the present draft Decree is to ensure consumer safety through the prevention of risks linked to the behaviour in the event of fire of stuffed furniture and similar objects.

Indeed, in the furniture sector, a number of incidents and accidents have caused serious injuries or deaths which call into question the insufficiency of safety devices.

In the case of stuffed furniture and similar objects, they are called into question in domestic fires which cause approximately 400 deaths a year in France. Toxic fumes from burning foam are the main cause of death.

10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts

- Article L 221-3 of the Consumer's Code;
- Opinion of the Consumer Safety Commission of 15 May 1991.

11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure

No

12. Grounds for the Emergency

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13. Confidentiality

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14. Fiscal measures

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GROWTH DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Single Market for goods
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D. WILLIAMSON
COMEUR
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