

## **Flammability: Cal Tech. Bulletin 117-2013**

### **(For Internal Use Only)**

#### **What is Cal Tech. Bulletin 117-2013?**

While this is a new California flammability standard, the Cal Tech. Bulletin has been around for forty years and the state felt it was necessary to update the old standard.

Effective January 1, 2015 the State of California will begin enforcing a new FR regulation, Cal Tech. TB117-2013. The new regulation changes the traditional flame test to a new smolder standard that shifts the testing burden from interior foams to barrier materials and upholstery.

The new standard not only eliminates the need for flame retardant chemicals, it also addresses where fires actually begin, which is the cover fabric, not the foam, and focuses on the interaction of the cover fabric with the filling material.

#### **Why is this printing on our invoices and packing slips?**

Under California law, it is the ultimate responsibility of the furniture manufacturer/workroom to ensure products meet Cal Tech. Bulletin 117-2013 and the labeling requirements. Since furniture manufacturers are responsible for labeling, we wanted to make it easy for them to have access to that information. By printing it on invoices and packing slips we are informing our customers that particular product/pattern(s) passes the Cal Tech. Bulletin 117-2013 test.

#### **What do I say if a customer asks why it's NOT printing on certain product/pattern(s)?**

There will be certain product that will not pass, or in some cases hasn't been tested for Cal Tech. Bulletin 117-2013. Nothing will print on the invoices or packing slips for that product.

#### **What do I tell a customer who asks what to do if product they want to purchase does not pass or has not been tested?**

This is a new California regulation regarding the flammability of upholstered furniture, and the ultimate responsibility for compliance is on the furniture manufacturer/workroom. Even though the fabric itself does not pass or hasn't been tested, the furniture manufacturer/workroom can use a compliant barrier material in the fabrication, which satisfies the regulation as well. When/if you are pressed on this, please refer questions to Jack Daly.

#### **Will our competitors be doing something similar?**

We would expect so. Although specific to California, many manufacturers/suppliers use that state's standards to avoid producing multiple inventories.

For more information on California's Technical Bulletin 117-2013 visit:

[http://www.bearhfti.ca.gov/about\\_us/tb117\\_faqs.pdf](http://www.bearhfti.ca.gov/about_us/tb117_faqs.pdf)