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20 January 2000

FSD Circular Letter No. 1/2000

Flammability Standards for Polyurethane (PU) Foam Filled Mattresses and Upholstered Furniture in Licensed Premises and Public Areas

This Circular Letter announces the flammability standards for Polyurethane (PU) Foam Foam filled mattresses and upholstered furniture, both fixed and movable, to be adopted in licensed premises and public areas.

Following the Government's decision to introduce administrative measures to regulate the fire safety of PU foam filled mattresses and upholstered furniture, FSD in conjunction with other Departments and Bureaux has conducted an extensive research on international flammability standards for mattresses and upholstered furniture suitable for use in public areas. As a result, the following flammability standards have been identified and will be adopted for local use:

For Mattresses

British Standard: Specification for resistance to ignition of mattresses, divans and bed bases (for the use in medium hazard premises/building) BS 7177: 1996 or its international equivalent. (Extract of the standard attached at Appendix I)

For Upholstered Furniture

British Standard: Specification for resistance to ignition for non-domestic seating by testing composites (for the use in medium hazard premises/building) BS 7176: 1995 or its international equivalent. (Extract of the standard odd Appendix Moreover to this letter 凡提及本信時請引述編號及日期

For new applications or existing licensed premises applying for major alterations, all PU foam filled

furniture items to be used in the premises shall meet the specified standards. For existing licensed premises, all

PU foam filled furniture items not meeting the specified standards shall be replaced through a phased

programme.

PU foam filled furniture items meeting the specified standards shall bear an appropriate label as per

appendix III and IV. In addition, the following documents are required to be produced for verification:

(i) The invoice from the manufacturers/suppliers indicating that the PU foam filled furniture

items meet the relevant flammability standards; and

(ii) A copy of the testing certificate indicating that the material used for the fabrication of the

furniture items comply with the relevant standards. The test certificate shall be issued by a

testing laboratory accredited to conduct tests according to the specified standards. Such

certificate must bear the supplier/manufacturer's company seal for authentication purpose.

The above measures will be implemented with effect from 20 January 2000.

Signed (KWOK Jing-keung) for Director of Fire Services BS 7176 : 1995 Appendix I

Table 1. Performance requirements and notes on application of hazard categories 1) 2)							
(When using this table it is essential to consult the notes which follow it.)							
	Low hazard	Medium hazard	High hazard	Very high hazard			
Requirements	Resistant to ignition source: smouldering cigarette of BS EN 1021-1: 1994. Resistant to ignition source: match flame equivalent of BS EN 1021-2: 1994	Resistant to ignition source: smouldering cigarette of BS EN 1021-1: 1994. Resistant to ignition source: match flame equivalent of BS EN 1021-2: 1994. Resistant to ignition source 5 in section 4 of BS 5852: 1990.	Resistant to ignition source: smouldering cigarette of BS EN 1021-1: 1994. Resistant to ignition source: match flame equivalent of BS EN 1021-2: 1994. Resistant to ignition source 7 in section 4 of BS 5852: 1990.	Resistant to ignition source: smouldering cigarette of BS EN 1021-1: 1994. Ignition source: match flame equivalent of BS EN 1021-2: 1994. Section 4 or section 5 of BS 5852: 1990. At the discretion of the specifier but at least high hazard requirements.			
Typical examples	Offices Schools Colleges Universities Museums Exhibitions Day centres	Hotel bedrooms Public buildings Restaurants Services' messes Places of public entertainment Public halls Public houses and bars Casinos Hospitals Hostels	Sleeping accommodation in certain hospital wards and in certain hostels Offshore installations	Prison cells			

¹⁾ If a particular premises in the low hazard area is also used for sleeping purposes then consideration should be given to specifying a higher performance level.

²⁾ Upholstered furniture which is ordinarily intended for private use in a dwelling is subject to Government Regulations (see foreword).

BS 7177: 1995 Appendix II

Table 1. Performance requirements and notes on application of hazard categories						
(When using this table it is essential to consult the notes which follow it.)						
	Domestic use (low hazard) 1)	Medium hazard ²⁾	High hazard ²⁾	Very high hazard ²⁾		
Requirements	Resistant to ignition with source – smouldering cigarette of BS EN 597-1: 1995 Resistant to ignition with source – match flame equivalent of BS EN 597-2: 1995	Resistant to ignition with source – smouldering cigarette of BS EN 597-1: 1995 Resistant to ignition with source – match flame equivalent of BS EN 597-2: 1995 Resistant to ignition with source 5 of BS 6807: 1996, Section 2	Resistant to ignition with source – smouldering cigarette of BS EN 597-1: 1995 Resistant to ignition with source – match flame equivalent of BS EN 597-2: 1995 Resistant to ignition with source 7 of BS 6807: 1996, Section 2	Resistant to ignition with source – smouldering cigarette of BS EN 597-1: 1995 Resistant to ignition with source – match flame equivalent of BS EN 597-2: 1995 Resistant to ignition with source 7 of BS 6807: 1996, Section 2 Additional tests specified by the user with greater than high hazard requirements		
Typical examples (see notes 1 and 2)	Domestic dwellings (including non-motorized caravans)	Hospitals Services' messes Day Centres Hotels Hostels Old peoples' homes Holiday camp chalets Boarding schools Residential schools Halls of residence at universities and colleges	Certain hospital wards Off-shore installations Hotels Hostels Old peoples' homes	Prison cells Locked psychiatric accommodation		

³⁾ The fillings used in domestic mattresses, divans and bed bases (low hazard) are also subject to Government Regulations (see foreword).

⁴⁾ It cannot be assumed that mattresses, divans and bed bases meeting the requirements for medium, high or very high hazard will automatically meet the government requirements for fillings. It is recognized that fillings which do meet the government regulations are commonly used in mattresses, divans and bed bases for medium, high or very high hazard environments.



Complies with BS 7177: 1996 for medium hazard

Figure 1. Example of a label



COMPLIES WITH BS 7176 : 1995 DIRECT TEST/PREDICTIVE TEST¹⁾ FOR MEDIUM HAZARD

1) Delete whichever is inappropriate

Figure 1. Example of a label