

CA 45-1-25

KENTUCKY PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS

AFFILIATED WITH INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS-KENTUCKY STATE AFFILIO:

September 29, 1993

- Petition FP 93-1
Office of the Secretary
Consumer Product Safety Commission
Washington, D.C. 20207

Dear Sir:

As members of the Fire Service of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, we would like to express our desire to see the passage of meaningful federal flammability standards for upholstered furniture. We would also suggest that the standards be equal to or greater than those found in California Technical Bulletins 133 and 117.

We would further suggest that the standards be extended to include upholstered furniture in personal dwellings in order to reduce flame spread as well as resist smoldering. As firefighters, we see the damage upholstered furniture causes in the loss of property and, unfortunately, the loss of lives. With stringent federal standards established and enforced, the Commonwealth of Kentucky could save countless lives each year that are needlessly lost.

Upholstered furniture is generally polyurethane foam covered with loose weave fabrics and most often does not have fire retardant properties. Many fires in Kentucky are caused by cigarettes dropped in furniture which smolders until well after the occupants are asleep. When upholstered furniture is heated in this type of fire condition, it burns fiercely and produces extremely high heat. This high heat exposes the occupants to extremely high temperatures and extremely toxic gases.

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KENTUCKY PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS

AFFILIATED WITH INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS-KENTUCKY STATE AFL-CIO.

As firefighters of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, we feel that a Federal Upholstered Furniture Flammability Standard should be implemented. The federal government has passed mandates in the past, as early as 1953, that have regulated and proven to be effective.

Some of those mandates are (1) Federal Flammable Act; which regulated Children's sleepwear; (2) testing methods (two different ones) that provide for safe carpets; (3) regulations for textiles in motor vehicle passenger cars governed by the United States Department of transportation; (4) regulations for textiles in aircraft compartments governed by the Federal Aviation Administration; and (5) Flammability Standards for Mattresses.

It only makes sense that we would want to protect the citizens of our great country in their homes as well as in their vehicles and air travel. These standards were developed to protect lives and have proven to do so. An Upholstered Furniture Flammability Standard would also protect lives. We strongly urge that steps be taken to develop and mandate these standards.

Sincerely yours,



Bruce Roberts
President
K.P.F.F., I.A.F.F.

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