

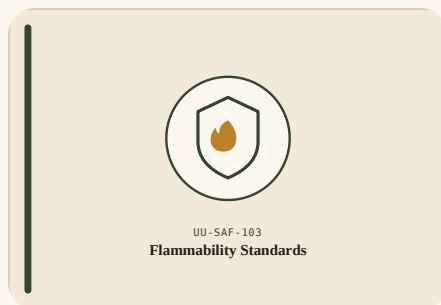
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Safety & Compliance

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Flammability Standards for Upholstered Furniture: CPSC, ASTM E1352, and California TB117

What these standards actually govern, who they apply to, and what a shop owner needs to know before making claims to customers.



1. Why this matters to a working shop, not just a lab

Flammability isn't just a manufacturer's concern — a reupholstery shop that sources its own fabric and foam is making material choices that affect whether a finished piece meets the flammability expectations of wherever it's headed, especially for commercial, hospitality, and institutional work where compliance is often specified by the customer's insurer or by code. This guide orients you to the standards you'll hear referenced most; it is not a substitute for current regulatory text.

2. The key players

BODY / STANDARD	WHAT IT COVERS
CPSC (U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission)	The federal agency with regulatory authority over consumer product flammability hazards, including upholstered furniture; has studied and pursued rulemaking on upholstered furniture flammability over the years. Confirm current federal requirements directly with CPSC rather than assuming a single nationwide mandatory furniture standard — the regulatory picture for furniture (as opposed to mattresses, which do have a specific federal flammability standard) has been shaped heavily by state and voluntary industry standards
UFAC (Upholstered Furniture Action Council)	A voluntary industry self-regulation program adopted broadly across U.S. furniture manufacturing, built around cigarette (smolder) ignition resistance testing of fabric and filling material combinations
ASTM E1352	The standard test method most associated with cigarette ignition resistance testing of mock-up upholstered furniture assemblies — the technical method underlying UFAC-style compliance testing
California TB117 / TB117-2013	Issued by California's state furniture flammability regulator; because California is such a large market, this standard has effectively shaped sourcing and labeling practice nationwide, not just for furniture sold in California

3. The TB117-2013 shift — and why it matters for what you buy

California's original TB117 (in force for decades) required furniture filling materials — foam, in practice — to pass an open-flame resistance test, which drove widespread use of flame-retardant (FR) chemicals in foam across the industry, not just in California. The 2013 revision (TB117-2013) changed the test focus to smolder/cigarette-ignition resistance of the outer fabric and barrier materials rather than requiring FR-treated foam specifically. That shift is a large part of why FR-chemical-treated foam became far less common industry-wide after 2014 — manufacturers could meet the revised standard without it.

If a customer asks whether your foam or fabric contains flame-retardant chemicals, don't guess — ask your supplier for current compliance documentation for that specific

product. Foam and fabric sourcing has changed significantly on this point over the past decade, and claims should be backed by the supplier's documentation, not assumed from how things used to be done.

4. What this means for sourcing and quoting

- For any commercial, hospitality, healthcare, or institutional job, ask the customer (or their specifier/architect) up front whether a specific flammability standard applies — contract and hospitality specifications often reference additional requirements beyond residential norms.
- Keep current compliance documentation from your fabric and foam suppliers on file, and be able to produce it if a commercial customer's insurer or fire marshal asks.
- Don't make a specific flammability claim ("this meets California TB117" or similar) to a customer unless you have current documentation from the material manufacturer backing that specific product — claims without documentation are a liability exposure, not a selling point.

5. Where to verify current requirements

Standards and test methods are revised over time. Before treating any detail in this guide as a final compliance answer, confirm current text directly with CPSC, your material suppliers' current compliance sheets, and — for any job with a real liability stake — your insurer or legal counsel.

Sources

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC); ASTM International, ASTM E1352, Standard Test Method for Cigarette Ignition Resistance of Mock-Up Upholstered Furniture Assemblies; California Bureau of Household Goods and Services (formerly Bureau of Home Furnishings), Technical Bulletin 117-2013.

A note on this content: This article is general trade guidance written for Upholsterers United's member network — it isn't legal, safety, or compliance advice, and it isn't a substitute for the current text of any standard, code, or manufacturer specification it references. Standards get revised and local requirements

vary; before relying on anything here for an actual compliance or liability decision, verify current requirements with the applicable standards body, code official, or material manufacturer.