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MAR 8 1974

Mr. Arthur F. Sampson
Administrator of General Services
General Services Administration
Washington, D.C. 20406

Dear Mr. Sampson:

This letter is in response to a letter dated January 11, 1974 from William S. Eckert, Director of the Property Rehabilitation Division of the General Services Administration to Edward Finch, Director of the Bureau of Compliance of this Commission. Mr. Eckert requested a determination whether the Standard for the Flammability of Mattresses (FF 4-72) applies to the complete renovation, under contracts awarded by GSA, of mattresses owned by Federal agencies.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission issued the Standard for the Flammability of Mattresses, as amended, pursuant to the Flammable Fabrics Act (15 U.S.C. 1191 et seq.) to protect the public against the unreasonable risk of the occurrence of fire leading to death, personal injury, or significant property damage. The Standard sets forth a test procedure to determine the ignition resistance of mattresses and mattress pads when exposed to a lighted cigarette. All mattresses and mattress pads manufactured on or after June 22, 1973 must comply with the Standard, except that noncomplying items could be manufactured until December 21, 1973 if a prominent and conspicuous cautionary label was affixed. For your information, a copy of the Standard is enclosed.

This Commission has determined that mattress renovation is covered by the Standard when a mattress is renovated for sale after the effective date of the Standard. Thus, if the owner of a mattress retains title to the mattress during the renovation process and the owner does not intend to sell the renovated mattress, the renovation is not covered by the Standard.

It appears from the facts supplied by Mr. Eckert in his letter that the renovation which he describes is not covered by the Standard. However, we hope that the General Services Administration will take all necessary steps to protect those using government facilities from the dangers of flammable mattresses by applying the Standard to the greatest extent possible.

ADVISORY OPINION

Please let me know if I can be of any assistance to you regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
RICHARD O. SIMPSON

Richard O. Simpson
Chairman

Enclosure

MAFreeston:clb:3/5/74

cc: Chairman Simpson
F. Barrett, Executive Director
E. Finch, Director BCM
S. Dunn, Secretary
M. Freeston
GC Files
GC Chron
GC Reading

ADVISORY OPINION