



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20207

July 2005

**CPSC STAFF RELEASE OF
TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS ON UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE FLAMMABILITY***

The staff of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is releasing 11 technical documents describing laboratory research on upholstered furniture flammability. The Commission is considering regulatory options to address the risk of residential fire associated with smoldering cigarette and small open flame ignition of upholstered furniture. The Commission published an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) in the October 23, 2003 *Federal Register*. Pursuant to the ANPR, the CPSC staff is conducting technical research to support the development of a draft flammability performance standard. The staff is releasing the following preliminary reports on this research, prepared by CPSC's Directorate for Laboratory Sciences, for public review:

1. Performance Criteria and Standard Materials for the CPSC Staff Draft Upholstered Furniture Standard (summary memo, L. Fansler, L. Scott, May 16, 2005)
2. Evaluation of Test Method and Performance Criteria for Cigarette Ignition (Smoldering) Resistance of Upholstered Furniture Materials (W. Tao, May 12, 2005)
3. Open Flame Ignition Test Methodology Development (L. Fansler, L. Scott, May 26, 2005)
4. Assessment of Fabric Open Flame Test Methodology (W. Tao, May 9, 2005)
5. Smoldering and Small Open Flame Ignition Performance of Upholstered Furniture Loose Fill Materials (L. Scott, May 31, 2005)
6. Analysis of FR Chemicals Added to Foams, Fabric, Batting, Loose Fill and Barriers (D. Cobb, S. Chen, May 10, 2005)
7. Alternate Ignition Sources for Fire Blocking Barrier Evaluations, L. Fansler, November 1, 2004)
8. Exploratory Tests of Barrier Materials (L. Fansler, October 25, 2004)
9. Upholstery Fabrics and Interlining Materials Used in the Smoldering and Small Open Flame Testing (W. Tao, May 26, 2005)
10. Review of Sheeting Fabric Specifications for Cigarette Ignition Mockup Tests (W. Tao, May 20, 2005)
11. Review of Proposed Requirement for Reconditioning Cigarette Ignition Mockup Foam for Post-Test Weight Loss Measurement (E. Krawiec, W. Tao, May 20, 2005)

* Please note that these documents were prepared by the CPSC staff; they have not been reviewed or approved by, and do not necessarily represent the views of, the Commission.

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The most recent revision of the staff's draft standard, along with a summary of the staff's technical rationale for the various elements of the standard, was presented to regulatory proceeding stakeholders at a May 18, 2005 public meeting at CPSC's Bethesda, MD headquarters. The performance and labeling / recordkeeping provisions of the draft standard were posted on the Commission's web site (please see <http://www.cpsc.gov/library/foia/foia05/brief/uphols1.pdf>). At the May 18 public meeting and at other meetings, stakeholders expressed great interest in being able to review the technical information supporting the staff's draft standard. The staff believes that sharing these preliminary reports at this time will maintain transparency in the regulatory development process and provide an opportunity for the staff to obtain and consider stakeholders' comments and suggestions on technical issues affecting a possible proposed rule for upholstered furniture.

For further information on this matter, contact Dale Ray, CPSC staff project manager, telephone 301-504-7704, or email dray@cpsc.gov.