



### Q: What is the new flammability standard for upholstered home furniture?

**A:** California's furniture flammability standard, Technical Bulletin 117 was a previous fire- test response standard that tested furniture filling. This previous flammability test was very difficult to pass without the use of chemical flame retardants. The new [Technical Bulletin 117-2013](#) (TB117-2013) tests the entire piece of furniture rather than just the filling. The new standard does not ban added flame retardant chemicals in furniture. Instead it allows manufactures to meet flammability standards without using chemical flame retardants and still provide you with safe furniture.

### Q: What does this standard apply to?

**A:** TB117-2013 applies to upholstered furniture sold in California. Bedding products such as mattresses, comforters, mattress pads, bed pillows as well as decorative pillows are not subject to TB117-2013. As of January 2014, most children's products are exempt from the new TB117-2013 flammability standards in California

### Q: What are the new labeling requirements?

**A:** In 2014, California passed [Senate Bill 1019](#) (SB 1019), which requires labeling of upholstered furniture to disclose the presence of flame retardant chemicals on furniture labels. See <http://sfenvironment.org/article/business/flame-retardant-chemicals> for details on the new standard and labeling requirements.

### Q: What's the difference between TB117-2013 and SB 1019?

**A:** While TB117 and TB117-2013 (new) are standards that outline the test for flammability; SB 1019 is a right to know bill that tells retailers and consumers if flame retardant chemicals have been used in the manufacture of a piece of furniture. (See image on the next page)





NOTICE

THIS ARTICLE MEETS THE  
FLAMMABILITY REQUIREMENTS OF  
CALIFORNIA BUREAU OF ELECTRONIC  
AND APPLIANCE REPAIR, HOME  
FURNISHINGS AND THERMAL  
INSULATION TECHNICAL BULLETIN  
117-2013. CARE SHOULD BE  
EXERCISED NEAR OPEN FLAME OR  
WITH BURNING CIGARETTES.

The upholstery materials in this product:  
 contain added flame retardant  
 chemicals  
 contain NO added flame retardant  
 chemicals

The State of California has updated the  
flammability standard and determined that  
the fire safety requirements for this product  
can be met without adding flame retardant  
chemicals. The State has identified many  
flame retardant chemicals as being known  
to, or strongly suspected of, adversely  
impacting human health or  
development.



TB117-2013 labeling requirement



SB 1019 labeling requirement

**Q: Who is responsible for compliance with TB117-2013 and SB 1019?**

**A:** Under California law, it is ultimately the responsibility of the furniture manufacturers and their suppliers to ensure products meet the TB117-2013 standard and SB 1019 labeling requirements. However, wholesalers, importers and retailers are also required to ensure products that they sell meet all the applicable requirements.

**Q: When is the mandatory date when all upholstered furniture must meet the new standard?**

**A:** All furniture manufactured after January 1, 2015 should meet the new standard.

**Q: What is the impact of the new regulations on selling the products in my store?**

**A:** There is no sell-through provision for retailers; meaning you may continue to sell furniture that meets the old standard until your stock is depleted. Products manufactured after January 1, 2015 must meet the SB 1019 labeling requirements.





**Q: Will the SB 1019 “flame retardant chemical statement” be applicable to the products that are already labeled as compliant with TB117-2013?**

**A:** The labeling will not be retroactive and the existing furniture (furniture manufactured before January 1, 2015) can be sold without the new SB 1019 labeling.

**Q: Should the SB 1019 “flame retardant chemical statement” be added to the TB117-2013/TB116/TB133 label?**

**A:** The statement applies to “covered products” which means any flexible polyurethane foam or upholstered or reupholstered furniture that is required to meet the test requirements set forth in Technical Bulletin 117-2013. Therefore, the SB 1019 “flame retardant chemical statement” will be added to the TB117-2013, TB116/TB117-2013 compliant flammability labels. The compliant TB133 flammability label does not require the SB 1019 “flame retardant chemical statement” because upholstered furniture for use in public occupancies does not fall under the definition of “covered product” in B&P Code section 19094.

**Q: If my product is labeled with the SB 1019 labeling, do I also need a Proposition 65 label attached to my product?**

**A:** There may be labeling and/or notice requirements under CA Proposition 65. For questions and issues related to specific detection levels in flame retardant chemicals and hazardous materials labeling, contact the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal EPA) and/or Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), the State agencies responsible for overseeing provisions of Proposition 65. You may visit the following link for additional Proposition 65 information: Proposition 65 Web-site: <http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/background/p65plain.html>.

**Q: Does the “flame retardant chemical statement” apply to mattresses or mattress pads?**

**A:** The TB117-2013 standard specifically applies to “covered products” which means any flexible polyurethane foam or upholstered or reupholstered furniture sold in California that is required to meet the test requirements. Mattresses and mattress sets are not required to meet the TB117-2013 flammability requirement. However, a foam topper (mattress pad) without a cover and comprised of polyurethane foam must meet the TB117-2013 Section 3 and must contain a compliant TB117-2013 flammability label that will include the SB 1019 “flame retardant chemical statement”.

**Q: Are couches that do not have flame retardant chemicals natural or organic?**

**A:** Not necessarily. The lack of added flame retardant chemicals does not determine whether the raw materials or the processes are natural or certified organic.





**Q: Does the furniture manufacturer have to do all the testing?**

**A:** The furniture manufacturers must keep in mind that they are responsible for their furniture's compliance with the SB 1019 labeling requirements. Although manufacturers can perform tests if they choose to do so, ordinarily the material suppliers provide appropriate certifications or proof of compliance for the materials that they supply to the furniture manufacturers. The material suppliers, such as foam or batting fabricators and fabric suppliers can request proof of compliance from the material manufacturers such as the foam plants or the fabric mills.

**Q: How can a retailer assure compliance for Customer Owner Materials?**

**A:** Customer owned materials (COM) that are provided to a furniture manufacturer (such as a custom upholsterer) can be treated in two ways: 1. If the customer provides certification of compliance for their materials, the furniture manufacturer or upholsterer can use them accordingly. 2. If no certifications or proof of compliance are provided by the customer and the manufacturer or upholsterer does not know whether the COM fabrics meet the standard or not, the use of a barrier that meets Section 2 of TB117-2013 will ensure compliance of the furniture with TB117-2013 flammability standard. The new piece of furniture will also need to comply with the SB 1019 labeling requirements.

**Q: Are flame retardant chemicals in furniture being banned?**

**A:** No, the test and labeling requirement are not a ban on flame retardant chemicals in upholstered furniture. It is an option provided to manufacturers so they can produce furniture that meets fire safety requirements without having to add these harmful chemicals.

**More information can be found at the [Bureau of Electronic and Appliance Repair, Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation website:](#)**

<http://www.bearhfti.ca.gov/about-us/sb-1019-faq.pdf>

**And** <http://www.bearhfti.ca.gov/about-us/tb117-faqs.pdf>

