

G. Upholstery Flammability

Since 1973 the U.S. upholstery manufacturers have been represented by the Upholstered Furniture Action Council (UFAC) in all matters pertaining to upholstery flammability. UFAC has developed a voluntary program which has provided the consumer with products less likely to ignite from smoldering cigarettes. The Consumer Products Safety Commission, the federal agency having jurisdiction over upholstered furniture, has accepted the industry's voluntary program.

Recent information released by Canada's Consumer and Corporate Affairs Products Safety Branch reveals that there are flammability investigations underway in Canada. One of the considerations undoubtedly will be the British flammability program which would be far more restrictive than the UFAC program and probably no more effective. UFAC has also expressed an interest in assisting in the development of such an independent voluntary Canadian program. Interested manufacturers should discuss the matter with their own Canadian manufacturing associations and appropriate government agencies.

Some of the U.S. retail firms rely upon the added measure of safety designated by the UFAC hang tag on a piece of upholstered furniture. This could prove to be a detriment to manufacturers