



Compliance Scheme

KEY POINTS

Primary Authority
Co-ordinated Partnership with
Hertfordshire Trading Standards

Assured Advice

Prevent inconsistent
interpretation of the
Regulations

Become a Certified Company

The Furniture Industry Research Association's 'Compliance Scheme for the Fire Performance of Upholstered Furniture' aims to offer reassurance that a manufacturer, retailer, upholsterer or supplier of upholstered furniture has suitable processes and procedures in place to demonstrate due diligence compliance with the UK's Furniture & Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations (FFFSR).

The Research Association has entered into a Primary Authority Co-ordinated Partnership with Hertfordshire Trading Standards. This means that Certified Companies, as participants of the scheme, will be part of a regulated group and benefit from Assured Advice from Trading Standards.

You do not need to be a member of the Furniture Industry Research Association to be part of the Compliance Scheme.

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FIRA
Furniture Industry Research Association



ENFORCEMENT

The FFFSR are actively enforced by Trading Standards (TS):

- In 2011-2012 'Operation Chair' by Enfield TS and Brent & Harrow TS found an 84% flammability failure rate from 19 samples. 'Operation Chair 2' inspected 60 business units, with 57% non-compliances and 62% flammability failures, resulting in prosecutions and product recalls.
- In 2013 West Yorkshire TS, with North Yorkshire, prosecuted and fined a furniture franchise £17,000 for flammability failures.
- In 2011 Rhondda Cynon Taf TS purchased four items of upholstered furniture for flammability testing; all failed the Schedule 5 match test and a further sixteen items were suspended from sale. Formal action was taken against three traders due to issues with traceability.

The Compliance Scheme for the Fire Performance of Upholstered Furniture can help you demonstrate that you have robust due diligence procedures.

CRITERIA

The scheme is designed specifically for those within the furniture industry who manufacture, upholster or retail upholstered furniture and who are committed to ongoing compliance with the UK flammability regulations.

Typical upholstered furniture products that are covered include chairs, sofas, stools, floor and scatter cushions, as well as the materials and upholstery itself.

The scheme is not intended to cover garden or outdoor furniture, upholstered beds, bed frames, headboards or mattresses, where other schemes are already in place.

ASSURED ADVICE

Through the Research Association's Primary Authority Partnership agreement with Hertfordshire Trading Standards, Certified Companies of the Compliance Scheme (who are based in the UK) can request 'Assured Advice'. Advice provided by Hertfordshire Trading Standards under the

conditions of the Compliance Scheme may be relied upon as 'Assured Advice' and will be respected by other regulatory enforcement bodies throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, which will prevent inconsistent interpretation of the FFFSR.



CERTIFIED COMPANY

To be a Certified Company of the Scheme you will need to undergo a thorough audit, carried out by FIRA International. This audit will assess how well your current processes are in line with the Regulations and may flag up some recommendations required in order to be accepted into the scheme.

The scheme itself is voluntary, but compliance with the FFFSR themselves is required by Law.

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