



CALIFORNIA UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE AND BEDDING LAWS LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

WHO GETS LICENSED?

If you conduct business in the home furnishings and bedding industry, you are required to maintain a valid license issued by the Bureau of Household Goods and Services (BHGS). Businesses are required to be licensed BEFORE they can operate or provide a service (Business and Professions Code section 19049).

If you are unsure what type of license you need or have any questions about the different license types available, contact BHGS by email at homeproducts@dca.ca.gov or by calling (916) 999-2041. You may seek additional information on the BHGS website at www.bhgs.dca.ca.gov.

BUREAU OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND SERVICES

The Bureau of Household Goods and Services is the regulatory agency, under the California Department of Consumer Affairs, that oversees the licensing and inspection of businesses that sell upholstered furniture and bedding products to California consumers. BHGS enforces the Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation Act, which requires all upholstered furniture and bedding products meet certain flammability standards and labeling requirements before they can be offered for sale to consumers.

STATE REGISTRY NUMBERS

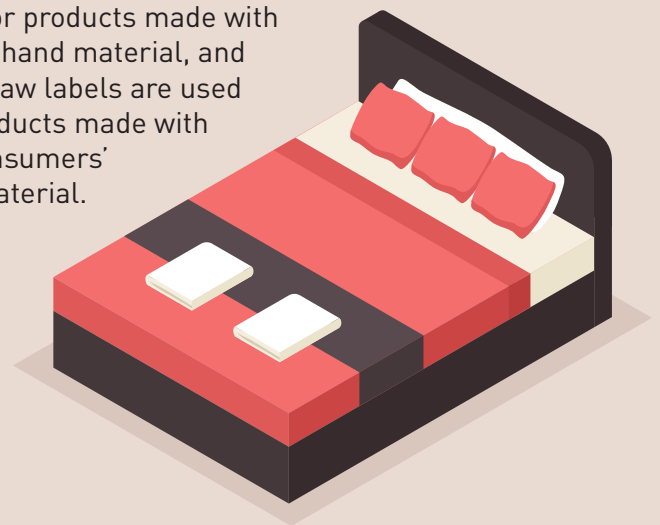
BHGS issues a registry number to manufacturers, custom upholsterers, and supply dealers when they are licensed. The registry number is used to identify the business that manufactured the product and the business' location. Consumers can look up the registry number on the BHGS website at www.bhgs.dca.ca.gov/enforcement/lookup.shtml to obtain manufacturing information.

LABELING REQUIREMENTS

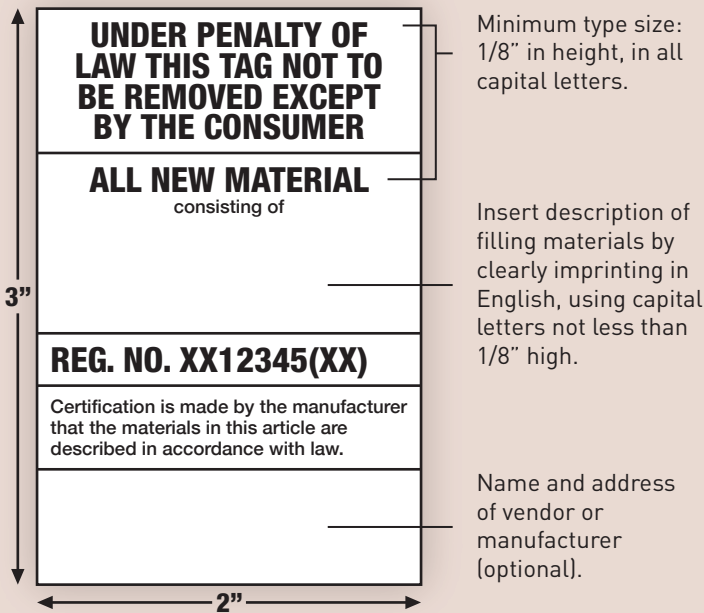
Articles of upholstered furniture and bedding must be properly labeled before they can be offered for sale. Labels must be securely attached to the product and easily visible at the point of sale. For all labels required by BHGS, the size of the label must be a minimum of 2" x 3" and the type must be in black ink and a minimum of 1/8" in size.

LAW LABELS

Every article of upholstered furniture and bedding products must have a law label to identify the manufacturer, their location, and the filling materials used during the making of the product. White law labels are used for products made with new material, red law labels are used for products made with secondhand material, and green law labels are used for products made with the consumers' own material.



This is an example of a law label for upholstered furniture with new material:



FLAMMABILITY LABEL AND FLAME RETARDANT CHEMICAL STATEMENT

In addition to a law label, flammability labels must be attached to upholstered furniture products to describe which flammability standard it meets. Products meeting Technical Bulletin 117-2013 must also have the flammability chemical statement on the label. The flammability chemical statement describes whether articles used to make the product contain flame-retardant chemicals. This is an example of a flammability label for products that meet Technical Bulletin 117-2013:

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

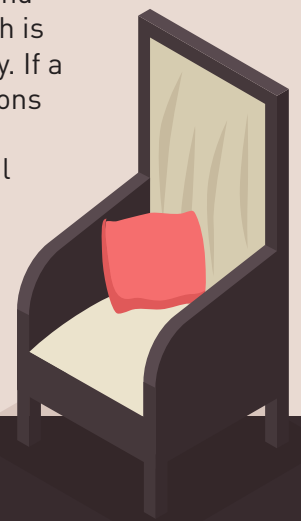
The State of California has updated the flammability standard and determined that the fire safety requirements for this product can be met without adding flame retardant chemicals. The State has identified many flame retardant chemicals as being known to, or strongly suspected of, adversely impacting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

If consumers want to check if furniture is free of added flame-retardant chemicals, they can ask the retailers to show them this label. Retailers are obligated to tip furniture or take other steps to make sure consumers can see this label.

For more label examples, go to the BHGS website at www.bhgs.dca.ca.gov/industry/label_examples.pdf

ENFORCEMENT

BHGS laws and regulations are enforced through routine inspections. Enforcement also includes the flammability testing of products and the review of product labels, which is performed at the BHGS laboratory. If a licensee refuses to correct violations identified by BHGS, citations and penalties will be assessed or legal action may be taken against the business.



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