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.

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.

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.

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:

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](http://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.