



**Boston Fire Department  
Fire Prevention Division  
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**REGULATION OF UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE: BFD IX-10**

Rev: July 8, 2016

**SCOPE**

This document describes the procedure by which upholstered furniture is regulated under the authority of the Fire Prevention Code (note: BFD Regulations are independent and separate from 527 CMR 1.00).

**APPROVAL**

Plastic molded seating/chairs must be tested as a product, using ASTM E1537.

Upholstered seating products shall be evaluated using test method:

(1) California Bureau of Home Furnishings, Technical Bulletin 117-2013. All layers/components of the finished item must be evaluated according to the TB117-2013 test standard and be submitted for the finished item. Smolder resistance of cover fabrics, barrier materials, resilient filling materials, and decking materials for use in upholstered furniture must pass this standard.

**RE-UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE**

***Note: Re-upholstered furniture must have been TB 117-2013 tested and the original certificate issued by the Boston Fire Department must accompany the application. If re-upholstered furniture is being installed as a new upholstered item, it must be accompanied by the re-upholsterer's TB 117-2013 test report.***

The following regulations will apply to re-upholstery of all types:

Re-upholstered Furniture will have to meet the minimum construction of the following:

**Using Existing Foam:**

**1. Cover existing foam with barrier,**

**or**

**2. Use fabric with laminated barrier.**

The Boston Fire Department reserves the right to examine upholstered furniture using Polyolefin fabrics and untreated nylon fabrics of a heavy weight.

**Using New Foam:**

1. If foam is replaced, new foam must be Cal 117-2013 (minimum) and be covered with a barrier,  
**or**
2. Fabric with laminated barrier.

Fiberfill must be protected by a barrier.

Fire retardant treatment of fabric is not required.

All Components used in the re-upholstering must be clearly identified. The submitter, by making and signing the application to the Boston Fire Department Chemist, is certifying that the re-upholstery is being completed as specified on the application.

**REGULATED OCCUPANCIES - USE GROUPS**

This regulation applies to all seating in the following occupancy/use groups as defined in 780 CMR, Massachusetts State Building Code: A - Assembly, E - Educational, I - Institutional, R - Residential excluding R-3, R-4.

**1:** Cal TB 117-2013 shall be the approved test procedure (**527 CMR 1.00 12.6.3.1**).  
The property must be fully sprinkled.

**2:** All (A) Assembly spaces permitted with an occupant load greater than 49 persons located in use groups not otherwise regulated shall require Cal TB117-2013 seating within the fully sprinkled Assembly area regardless of the number of seats.

**3:** Business (B) and Mercantile (M) use groups having (R) Residential spaces above, Cal TB 133 shall be required unless the (B) or (M) area is fully protected by an automatic sprinkler system as required in 527 CMR 1.00 12.6.3.1

**4:** For other than exempt seating Cal TB 133 seating shall be required in temporary assemblies located in a tent or other temporary structure where there exists an open flame, candles or cooking.

This policy is subject to modification at the discretion of the Boston Fire Marshal.