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Upholstered Furniture Action Council

Over more than 30 years, voluntary industry initiatives to improve furniture safety have resulted in an 88% decline in the number of fires involving upholstered furniture in the U.S. and a 79% reduction in the number of related deaths. Indeed, injuries, deaths and property damage have demonstrated a marked and steady decline during the period.

The Upholstered Furniture Action Council (UFAC) is a furniture industry association formed in 1978 expressly for the purpose of improving, testing and verifying the safety and performance of upholstered furniture for residential use. UFAC members represent about 85-90% of total U.S. sales dollars in the product category. Each submits samples of materials used in the manufacturing of upholstered furniture on an annual basis for third-party testing.

UFAC Construction Criteria (1979) and ASTM Smolder Standard E1353 (2008) are the leading smolder-resistance initiatives that have resulted in improved fire safety in the residential industry. Further improvement will be magnified by the gradual replacement of older furniture pieces with new models that are constructed and tested to the UFAC standard.

Upholstered furniture is a staple item in the wide majority of residences throughout the United States. The Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) reported 447 million upholstered products in homes in 2004. Further, UFAC estimates that some 11-18 million new upholstered pieces were sold each year between 2004 and 2010, increasing the total estimated furniture placements to over 540 million. This 17.7% increase in the number of upholstered products in use parallels the 4.8% growth in the U.S. population.

The concrete success of the UFAC program gave rise to the standard in the State of California, Technical Bulletin 117-2013. The residential furniture industry supports the adoption of similar measures at the federal level.