

A Code Review for Home Furnishings in New and Existing Dormitories on the University of Colorado at Boulder Campus

By: the Fire and Life-Safety Group (FLS)

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The Fire- and Life-Safety Group recommends compliance with California Technical Bulletins (CTB) 129 for mattresses and CTB 133 for upholstered furnishings for use in public buildings at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

This document was prepared to list the requirements for home furnishings in new and existing dormitories. The requirements are based on the 2009 edition of the *Uniform Fire Code* (NFPA-1), the October 1992 edition of the *California Technical Bulletin 129*, the January 1991 edition of the *California Technical Bulletin 133*, the January 2004 edition of the *Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Part 1632- Standard for the Flammability of Mattresses and Mattresses Pads*, formerly FF 4-72, (16 Part 1632), the March 2006 edition of the *CPSC Part 1633- Standard for the Flammability (Open Flame) of Mattress Sets* (16 Part 1633). Applicable code sections are listed in Section II.

I. Summary

The fire code requirements are the same for both new and existing dormitories. All new mattresses are to be tested in accordance with CTB 129 or an equivalent test method, CPSC 16 Part 1632, and CPSC 16 Part 1633. All mattress pads are to be in accordance with CPSC 16 Part 1632, and all foundations are to be in accordance with CPSC 16 Part 1633. All upholstered furniture used for seating is to be tested in accordance with CTB 133 or an equivalent test method. New draperies, curtains, and other similar loosely hanging furnishings or decorations are to be tested in accordance with NFPA-701. Furnishings or decorations with combustible properties are not permitted. Fire-retardant coatings are to be maintained. For applicable code sections please see Section II.

II. Regulations and Code Requirements

1. Document CPSC 16 Part 1632 states testing requirements for all mattresses and mattress pads before the sale or introduction in commerce. Mattresses include, but are not limited to, the following: adult and youth mattresses, bunk bed mattresses, futons, convertible sofa bed mattresses, and roll-away mattresses. This document does not apply to mattresses foundations, e.g. box springs. All mattresses and mattress pads are to be tested in accordance with CPSC 16 Part 1632.
2. Document CPSC 16 Part 1633 states the requirements that all mattress sets must meet before sale or introduction into commerce; this applies to mattresses and/or foundations. All mattresses (including but not limited to adult and youth

mattresses, bunk bed mattresses, futons, convertible sofa bed mattresses, and roll-away mattresses) and mattress foundations are to comply with CPSC 16 Part 1633.

3. California Technical Bulletin (CTB) 129 is a testing method designed to test mattresses purchased for use in public buildings (including dormitories). CTB 129 is equivalent to the *Standard Test Method for Fire Testing of Mattresses*, ASTM E 1590 and the *Standard Method of Test for Characteristics of Mattresses and Bedding Assemblies Exposed to Flaming Ignition Source*, NFPA 267. All mattresses are to comply with either CTB 129, ASTM E 1590, or NFPA 267.
4. California TB 133 is a test procedure designed to test seating furniture for use in public occupancies. CTB 133 is equivalent to the *Standard Test Method for Fire Testing of Upholstered Furniture*, ASTM E 1537. All upholstered seating used in public buildings should meet the requirements of CTB 133 or ASTM E 1537.
5. Section 20.8.2.5.2 of NFPA-1 states that new draperies, curtains, and other similar loosely hanging furnishings and decorations are to be flame resistant as demonstrated by testing in accordance with NFPA-701, *Standard Methods of Fire Tests for Flame Propagation of Textiles and Films*.
6. Section 20.8.2.5.3 of NFPA-1 states that furnishings or decorations of an explosive or flammable character are not to be used.
7. Section 20.8.2.5.4 of NFPA-1 states that fire-retardant coatings are to be maintained to retain the effectiveness of treatment under service conditions encountered in actual use.