

Fake Britain – Furniture Fire Safety Special

Some of you may be concerned after watching the BBC's current affairs programme 'Fake Britain' that aired on Monday 13th January 2014. The show focused on compliance with the UK's fire safety regulations for furniture and followed Leicestershire Trading Standards whilst they conducted a programme of formal testing.

Samples were purchased from various high street retailers and independent stores. Eight out of the ten sofas tested failed either part or all the fire safety tests required under the regulations. Under the regulations a product must pass all the relevant tests in order for it to state it is compliant. The sofas featured on the programme were bought from Harvey's and ScS.

The programme widened the investigation by randomly testing memory foam mattresses purchased from Argos, Homebase, Tesco Direct and Amazon. The mattresses, Sleep Secrets brand from Ventura Corporation all failed the fire safety testing requirements under the regulations.

The investigation also revealed that all the mattresses tested carried fake fire resistant labels. Beds and mattresses must carry a permanently attached label that is no smaller than 50mm x 50mm. The label content, format and design is specified in BS 7177:2008 and must be positioned so it can easily be seen. An example of a genuine label is shown below (not to scale).



If you are concerned about the safety of furniture you have bought you should contact the retailer and ask for confirmation that all the required safety standards have been met and what, if any action you need to take.

The following links may be of some assistance -

<http://www.harveysfurniture.co.uk/ContactUs.aspx>

<http://www.scs.co.uk/contact-us/>

<http://www.argos.co.uk/static/StaticDisplay/includeName/ContactUs.htm>

<http://www.homebase.co.uk/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/HomebaseStaticPageSecondLevel?langId=110&storeId=10151&includeName=HBCustomerServiceArticles/contactusfaq.htm>

<http://www.tesco.com/direct/help/contact-us.page?icid=Stanza Leather Effect Ma Sofabed Contact us 200006>

http://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/help/customer/display.html/ref=hp_gw_most_ccs?nodeId=502564

Information on the investigation conducted by Leicestershire Trading Standards and the relevant episode of Fake Britain broadcast on Monday 13th Jan 2014 can be found by clicking on the following links –

<http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/business/tradingstandards.htm>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03qfnsf>

Further information about The Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988 and its labelling requirements can be found at –

<http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/view/ncc130372>

http://www.adviceguide.org.uk/scotland/consumer_s/furniture_household_goods_and_clothing_index_e/is_your_furniture_fire_resistant.htm

Information about current Product Recalls can be found at -

<http://www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/advice/advice-recall-list.cfm>