LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

Who Gets Licensed?
If you conduct business in the home furnishings and bedding industry, you are required to maintain a valid license issued by BEARHFTI. 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 BEARHFTI by e-mail at homeproducts@dca.ca.gov or by calling (916) 999-2041. You may seek additional information on the BEARHFTI website at www.bearhfti.ca.gov.

ENFORCEMENT

BEARHFTI 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 BEARHFTI’s laboratory. If a licensee refuses to correct violations identified by BEARHFTI, citations and penalties will be assessed or legal action may be taken against the business.

CALIFORNIA UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE AND BEDDING LAWS
LABELING REQUIREMENTS

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 BEARHFTI, 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.

LAW LABELS

Every article of upholstered furniture and bedding products must have a law label to identify the manufacturer, their location, and the filling materials that were 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:

State of California
Bureau of Electronic & Appliance Repair, Home Furnishings & Thermal Insulation

BEARHFTI enforces the Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation Act, which requires all upholstered furniture and bedding products meet certain flammability standards and labeling requirements before they can be offered for sale to consumers.

STATE REGISTRY NUMBERS

BEARHFTI 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 Bureau’s website www.bearhfti.ca.gov/enforcement/lookup.shtml to obtain manufacturing information.

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 contains 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 BEARHFTI’s website at www.bearhfti.ca.gov/industry/label_examples.pdf