

Bureau of Electronic and Appliance Repair,
Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation
3485 Orange Grove Avenue
North Highlands, California 95660
Telephone: (916) 574-2041
Fax: (916) 574-2043
Email: homeproducts@dca.ca.gov

To whom it may concern,

As a consumer and parent I am writing to voice my concern with the state's flammability standard, Technical Bulletin 117. This flammability standard leads to manufacturers using toxic or untested flame retardant chemicals in the furniture and baby products we buy for our homes. We as consumers cannot choose products without such toxic chemicals. As a consequence of this standard, Californians have the highest levels in the world of the toxic flame retardant, pentaBDE, in their bodies. Recent human epidemiology studies have found associations with decreased IQ, reduced fertility, birth defects, and hormonal changes.

Although pentaBDE has been banned, its replacements could also be toxic. We as consumers have no choice to buy products without flame retardants to protect our family's health. Furthermore, there is no data to show that these flame retardants are effective in increasing overall fire safety. In fact, when these chemicals do ignite they combust to form the toxic gases that cause most fire deaths and injuries. Fire-safe cigarettes, fire-safe candles, child-proof lighters, sprinklers, and smoke detectors prevent fires without added chemicals.

In light of the above, I urge you to consider modifying this standard so that consumers can choose to buy products without added toxic chemicals.

Thank you,

[Name and Contact Information]