

FLAME RESISTANT FURNISHING MATERIALS

1. It is important to ensure that the materials used when carrying out repairs or modifications to aircraft cabin furnishings have suitable flame resistant properties, which should be at least equal to those of the material used in the original design as accepted for certification. Suitable methods for flame resistance testing of aircraft furnishing materials are described in CS 25 Appendix F and Section 25-853 of FAR 25.
2. **Requirements for Maintenance of Fire Resistance**
 - 2.1 Continuance of the flame resistance properties of furnishing materials may depend upon their use in service and the methods used in their cleaning. Experience has shown that:
 - (a) the proprietary flame retardant processes often applied to furnishing materials during or after manufacture, in order to provide the necessary flame resistant properties, may be destroyed or seriously impaired where the incorrect dry cleaning, laundering or proprietary finishing processes which enhance durability and minimize soiling, are used;
 - (b) the application of one flame retardant process on top of another, of a different type may have the effect of inhibiting the properties of both processes;
 - (c) during service, seat covers become contaminated with perspiration which leaves a deposit of body salts, etc., these deposits may accumulate, impairing the flame resistance properties of the materials;
 - (d) Disinfectants, etc., are often sprayed from aerosol containers in aircraft cabins. The accumulation of these agents may also affect the long term flame resistant properties of the furnishing materials.
 - 2.2 Operators and maintenance organizations are reminded, therefore, that they must have adequate control over the cleaning of aircraft furnishing materials. For this, the need to have knowledge of the material type, the recommended cleaning or proprietary finishing processing methods, the effects of time in service on the flame resistance properties, the flame retardant processes applied, if any, and the method of re-application of such a process, is necessary. It is not acceptable to place reliance on unsubstantiated claims concerning the continuance of flame resistant properties of a material after durability or additional flame retarded processes have been applied. Where such process has been applied, there is a need to prove the continued acceptability of a particular material or process in service, and therefore, further flame resistance tests must be conducted in accordance with requirements identified in paragraph 1 of this Notice.

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION
Airworthiness Notices

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