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## TRADING STANDARDS SERVICE

### NOTES FOR GUIDANCE

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## Selling Safe Second-Hand Furniture

### Introduction

The selling of upholstered furniture has been regulated by law since 1980. Over the last decade the safety standards for furniture have been substantially upgraded. These controls have now been extended to second hand items.

### ***Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988***

From March 1993 second-hand furniture must meet the same stringent standards as new furniture on sale in the shops.

The Regulations apply to furniture of any description for private use including beds, divans, sofa-beds, children's furniture, cots, cushions, high chairs, mattresses and pillows.

The safety provisions require that this furniture must pass the cigarette test, fillings must be fire retardant, and the covers must pass the match test.

(Some of the above does not apply to mattresses, bed bases, pillows, cushions and insulated bags for carrying infants under the age of 6 months).

### ***How does this affect antique furniture?***

Furniture made before 1 January 1950, materials for upholstery of furniture made before that date, and goods for export are excluded from controls.

### ***How do I know if furniture complies?***

Upholstered furniture meeting the new requirements will normally carry a permanent label with heading CARELESSNESS CAUSES FIRE. In the case of mattresses, look for a label stating compliance with BS 7177.

Any items not bearing this labelling may not conform to the Regulations, and you are advised not to sell them until you have obtained expert advice.

### ***Does the same apply to furniture which isn't upholstered?***

No, furniture which isn't upholstered is governed by the **General Product Safety Regulations 2005**, where the requirement is that the furniture, when used under normal or reasonably foreseeable conditions of use should present no risk (or minimal risk) to the user.

If you require further information please contact the Trading Standards Service.

*This is not an authoritative document on the law and is only intended for guidance.*

For a copy of this document on audio cassette, in large print or Braille, or if you require assistance in reading this, please contact the Council's Policy Unit.

Shetland Islands Council Policy Unit  
Town Hall, Hillhead, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0HB

Tel: 01595 744537

Email: policy@shetland.gov.uk

This document is also available at [www.shetland.gov.uk/tradingstandards](http://www.shetland.gov.uk/tradingstandards)

### Do you require the services of an interpreter?

If you do, please contact **01595 744537** for assistance.

We will provide an interpreter, or we can supply the document in your choice of language.

你是否需要傳譯服務?

如果需要，請致電 01595 744537 尋求幫助。

我們會適當地為你安排傳譯人員或者提供你需要文字的文件。

ਕੀ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਇੰਟਰਪਰੈਟਰ (ਤੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਆ) ਦੀਆਂ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ?

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਲਈ 01595 744537 ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

ਜਿਥੇ ਸੰਭਵ ਹੋ ਸਕਿਆ ਇੰਟਰਪਰੈਟਰ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਕਰਵਾਇਆ ਜਾਏਗਾ ਜਾਂ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਪਸੰਦ ਵਾਲੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਭੇਜਿਆ ਜਾਏਗਾ।

### আপনি কি একজন দোভাষীর সাহায্য চান ?

যদি আপনার প্রয়োজন থাকে তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে যোগাযোগ করুন -01595 744537  
যেখানে সম্ভব সেখানে একজন দোভাষীর ব্যবস্থা করা হবে অথবা আপনি যে ভাষাতে চা  
দলীলটি অনুবাদ করে আপনাকে প্রদান করা হবে।

کیا آپ کو انٹریپرٹری کی ضرورت ہے؟

اگر ایسا ہے تو پھر (انٹریپرٹری) مدد حاصل کرنے کیلئے فون نمبر 01595 744537 پر بات کریں۔

جہاں ممکن ہو وہاں انٹریپرٹری کی سہولت فراہم کی جائے گی یا پھر (مطلوبہ) دستہ ویز کارجمہ آپ کی

پسندیدہ زبان میں فراہم کیا جائے گا۔