

Spectra Seating

Upholstery Flame Test Considerations

October 2020



SPECTRA
CORPORATION
COMMERCIAL SEATING SOLUTIONS

General Comments

Overview & Purpose:

As a trusted partner on custom architectural upholstered seating and finished wall panel projects, Spectra Seating plays a role in the fire certification process undertaken by our customers' Project Managers.

We work with the PM teams to help ensure they have all the necessary information and paperwork to be able to successfully file for and secure approval of our fabricated seating and wall panel components as required by the local jurisdictional Fire Department. This pertains to completed turnkey seating, cushions, wall/ceiling panels, etc.

This document is meant to be a useful tool to hopefully help educate as needed or to offer guidance as to the support role we as a custom architectural finish component fabricator can offer PM's as part of this process.

Required Flame Tests:

- **Cushions:** Require CAL TB117-2013 flame test on all individual components that includes fabric, foam, and ventex.
- **Upholstered Panels:** Require ASTM E-84 flame test on all individual components that includes fabric and foam, and substrate. The ASTM E-84 test can also be used for testing the whole panel assembly which includes fabric, foam and substrate.
- **Full Framework:** Require CAL 133 flame test on the whole assembly of a banquette or bench.
- Note: Spectra uses **Govmark** for all Flame Test inquiries. Govmark has been established since 1971 and its reports are accepted worldwide including with Boston Fire Department and New York Fire.

Flame Test Compliance:

➤ CAL TB 117-2013:

- ❑ If a fabric does not have a CAL TB 117-2013 flame test, the NFPA 260 flame test can be submitted to BFD with the CAL TB 117-2013 application. **Note:** The NFPA 260 flame test is accepted with certain applications
- ❑ BFD confirmed to Spectra that they consider **Back Cushions that are attached directly to the wall to be upholstered wall panels.** This may require ASTM E-84 flame tests for this type of cushion, but it is the responsibility of our customers to confirm what the local FD's require before the project starts.

➤ ASTM E-84:

- ❑ We highly recommend using **Fire Rated substrates** with all **fabric wrapped panels** in the case that the local FD requests the whole assembly tested.
- ❑ With all upholstered panels, Spectra has seen a trend with local FD's requesting ASTM E-84 full assembly testing in applications where foam is used.
- ❑ With all upholstered panels, if foam is required, Spectra uses a highly flame-retardant foam called **CODE RED Foam.**

➤ CAL133:

- ❑ This test is only required when the local FD is **unsatisfied** with the **CAL TB 117-2013** application and they require further testing as a whole assembly.
- ❑ It is very uncommon for the local FD to request this flame test, but it does happen periodically.

Flame Test Minimum Requirements:

Test Type	Test Description	Required for Test	Lead time
CAL TB 117-2013	Individual Component Testing for Cushions	<p><u>Fabric (1 each):</u> Piece 54" Long</p> <p><u>Foam (6 each):</u> 8" x 8" x 2" and 8" x 5" x 2"</p> <p><u>Ventex/Barrier (1 each):</u> Piece 54" Long</p>	2-3 Weeks
ASTM E84	Upholstered Wall Panels	<p><u>Panels (3 each):</u> 96" x 22"x 1"</p>	2-3 weeks
CAL 133	Fully Assembled Seating	<p><u>Full Frame (1 each):</u> Standard size 48" length Banquette/Bench with Cushions</p>	2-3 Weeks

Flame Test Process

- Project Manager Determines what Flame Test is Required with the Jurisdictional FD.
- Spectra orders materials, fabricates unit and submits all documentation to **Govmark**.
- Spectra Ships to Lab and Lab Discloses results with Spectra and PM within 2-3 weeks.

If all materials pass flame test:

- Spectra will share flame test results with customer.
- Results then may be submitted and filed with according with local FD.

If materials fail flame test:

- Spectra will share flame test results with customer and will identify cause.
- Spectra will decide on a follow-up plan and execute.

Roles in Reporting

Spectra role:

- Retrieve all Flame Tests for each project based on approved materials
 - When an actual flame test is requested – Spectra will submit all materials and all documentation for testing to **Govmark**.
 - Spectra will offer perspective/guidance on interpreting the test results and will offer recommendations.
-

Customer role:

It is the **Sole Responsibility of our Customers to:**

- Confirm with local Jurisdictional Fire Department what applications are required for each project.
- Submit all paperwork (application and flame tests) to the local Jurisdictional Fire Department.

Useful Tools/Links:

- Govmark website:

<https://www.govmark.com/>

- Boston Fire Department – Flame Test Applications:

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/fire-prevention/fire-chemist-forms-and-applications>

- NY Fire Department Link:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/fdny/codes/fire-code/fire-code.page>

<http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/ofpc/branches/iib/index.cfm>

- CAL117-2013 General Info Link:

https://bhgs.dca.ca.gov/about_us/tb117_2013.pdf