

Fire Safety Protocol 17



**Textiles and
Furnishings**

The information provided is non-statutory guidance as provided by the Department of Health's suite of documents: Firecode - fire safety in the NHS Health Technical Memorandum, 05-03: Operational provisions *Part C: Textiles and furnishings*.
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/148478/HTM_05-03_Part_C.pdf

The information contained within the referred document provides guidance to healthcare facilities and particularly those providing specialist healthcare, such as mental health trusts.

All managers and staff involved in the provision of textiles and furnishings, for use within accommodation, should consider the fire safety risk of products purchased and used for the following groups:

- the elderly
- people with learning disabilities
- young people with disabilities
- medium secure and secure premises for people with mental health problems.

The guidance provided within HTM 05-03 Part C. identifies non-building materials which, when used by themselves or in conjunction with others, are less easily ignited and have a low rate of flame spread so that in the event of a fire, if not prevented altogether is delayed; subject content includes:

- Chapter 3: Burning of textiles
- Chapter 4: Furniture
- Chapter 5: Furnishings
- Chapter 6: Bed assemblies
- Chapter 7: Apparel
- Chapter 8: Disposables
- Chapter 9: Marketing and labelling
- Chapter 10: Cleaning
- Chapter 11: The use of a chemical flame-retardant
- Chapter 15: Medical Devices Directive 93/42/EEC of 14 June 1993

Mattresses and bed bases

Mattresses going in to a hospital/healthcare environment are required to be tested to - and pass - a minimum of BS 7177: Crib 5. This is the flammability requirement for any mattress going into this market sector, categorised as a 'medium hazard' environment.

Healthcare settings that have a higher risk, such as mental health wards, are classed as a 'high to very high hazard' environment and therefore require mattresses to comply with a more stringent fire test - BS 7177: Crib 7.

<https://britishfurnitureconfederation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/BFC-Contract-flammability-guide.pdf>