

FLAME RETARDANCY STANDARDS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Materials can be either inherently flame retardant (such as those made with Trevira CS[®]) or can have an additional coating applied to make them flame retardant. Flame retardant (FR) means that they inhibit the ignitability of the material when exposed to a flame and also slow down the rate of any flame spread.

2.0 STANDARDS

The relevant British Standard is BS 5867-2:2008 - Fabrics for curtains, drapes and blinds. Flammability Requirements.

For more details see: <http://shop.bsigroup.com/ProductDetail/?pid=00000000030168543>

International standards include:

- DIN 4102 - class B1 or B2 (Germany)
- NFP 92-503 - class M1 or M2 (France)
- NFPA 701 (USA)
- Can/ULC - S109-03 (Canada)
- AS/NZ 1530.3 (Australia/New Zealand)

3.0 FR REQUIREMENTS FOR BLINDS IN BUILDINGS

There is no mandatory requirement to use flame retardant materials in blinds for domestic or commercial use. It is the responsibility of the building owner to carry out a risk assessment on the premises to determine if blinds with FR materials are required. FR materials are often a requirement of the local fire officer who may not grant a fire certificate if non-FR materials are used.

The client's insurer may also require FR materials. So although there is no legal mandatory requirement, the BBSA recommends that only FR materials are used in commercial and public buildings.

4.0 FURTHER INFORMATION

To purchase copies of British Standards visit the British Standards Institute (BSI) website:
<http://shop.bsigroup.com/>

BSI also sell EN (European) and ISO (Global) standards although a much cheaper source for EN standards is the Estonian Standards Institute:
<http://www.evs.ee/>