



Intertek

Soft Home Furnishings  
& Furniture

*Designed for your peace of mind*

**Intertek**



## Your Challenges

Consumers today expect soft home furnishings and furniture to not only suit their individual lifestyles, but also to be of the highest quality and safety. With this daunting demand comes the increasing progression of national and international standards. It is challenging, to say the very least, for you to thrive globally if you lack the appropriate solutions provider to essentially build trust and value in your overall brand.

## Our Solutions

With over 1,000 offices and laboratories in over 100 countries, Intertek has unparalleled testing expertise on all soft home furnishings and furniture global regulations and can provide innovative services to enable your global trade for years to come including:

### **Regulatory Testing**

**Fiber Identification** – Most countries importing soft home furnishing products require fiber identification labels that indicate the fiber type and percentage of fiber components. Some countries even use fiber composition to classify quota categories. Intertek maintains a staff of experienced technicians who can accurately identify fibers and fiber blends, including specialty fibers such as cashmere.

**Feather and Down Testing** – In many countries Intertek offers special feather and down testing. Tests are available for quantitative analysis, filling power, thermal properties, migration, and penetration resistance.

**Flammability Testing** – For soft home furnishings, it is especially important that materials used in upholstery, rugs, and carpets are in compliance with flammability regulations. Consumers have a lower responsiveness towards danger during sleep. In the case of a household fire, there is added risk if bedding is easily flammable. It is crucial therefore to ensure the fire resistance of bedding items through flammability, cigarette and match tests.

**Care Label Instructions** – Many countries have mandatory or voluntary standards for care label instructions that apply to soft home furnishings products. Intertek conducts the following tests to determine the most appropriate care conditions for each product:

- Colorfastness to washing or dry cleaning
- Colorfastness to bleaching
- Dimensional stability
- Appearance retention





**Performance Testing** – A variety of tests are offered to meet specific performance standards, including, but not limited to:

- Dimensional stability to washing and / or dry cleaning
- Colorfastness to light, crocking (rubbing), washing, bleaching, and more
- Physical Tests – strength, abrasion, pilling resistance, and more
- Chemical Tests – finish analysis, pH, and more

**Eco-Textile Testing** – The trend of green consumerism has extended to textile and soft home furnishing products. Intertek provides a comprehensive spectrum of eco-testing which targets environmental protection and/or consumer health and safety. Chemical analysis for eco-testing includes:

- Azo Dyes (Banned Carcinogenic Amines)
- Chromium VI
- Extractable Heavy Metals
- Formaldehyde Content
- Pentachlorophenol (PCP)
- Pesticides Residue
- Total Cadmium Content
- Total Lead Content

## **Furniture**

Intertek performs a multitude of tests, assessments, and inspection services to evaluate the physical characteristics, construction properties, performance, and labeling of all types of furniture in accordance with both international standards and customers' very own expectations.

## **Performance Tests**

The performance of furniture like chairs, stools, high chairs, beds, tables, sofas, shelves and children's furniture can be assessed by:

- Strength tests
- Stability tests
- Back-pull, base and impact durability test (chair)
- Seat-back fatigue test (chair)



## **Flammability Tests**

Easily flammable furniture may intensify household fires and pose even greater risk to lives and property. Flammability tests are required to test the fire resistance of furniture, cover fabrics and filling materials in accordance with international standards such as UK Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulation 1998 and California Technical Bulletin 117. Some flammability tests include:

- Cigarette tests
- Match tests
- Ignition resistance test
- Flaming and smoldering screening test

## **Material Tests**

Chemical and physical tests are needed to test the components of furniture for hazardous substances, moisture and durability over time. Tests include:

- Formaldehyde Content
- Dimethyl Fumerate (DMF)
- Pentachlorophenol (PCP)
- Total Lead Content (Pb)
- Mold Count
- Moisture Content (wood)
- Abrasion Resistance
- Colorfastness
- Tear Strength
- Soil Release

## **Inspection Services**

- Assembly check – For wooden and knockdown furniture, individual pieces of furniture are checked for stability and overall appearance. Surfaces, drawers, doors, joints and gluing are also examined
- Color and finishing – Check the paint quality, color and finish of furniture
- Labeling assessments – All new furniture on display and supplied to consumers should carry appropriate display and permanent labels with compliance information and caution statements.

## **Home Decor / Seasonal Decorations**

Families today find joy in decorating their homes, whether making seasonal or permanent adjustments. However, consumers are often unaware of potential dangers. Reliable performance and material test results can help minimize potential dangers and ensure the safety and quality of these decorative items.

## U.S. guidelines for Soft Home Furnishing Testing



Regulation	Test	Curtains, Drapes, Towels, Table Linens, Sheets, Pillowcase, Bedspreads	Blankets, Throws	Quilts, Comforters	Pillows (Larger than 26"), Cushions	Mattresses, Mattress Pads	Rugs, Floor Mats
Fiber Identification	Fiber Content	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Plumage Content			X	X		
Flammability	CA 117				X	X	
	CA 116				X	X	
	16 CFR 1632					X	
	16 CFR 1630 or 1631						X
	16 CFR 1633				X	X	
Care Label*	Dimensional Stability to Laundering, Dry Cleaning or Professional Cleaning	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Colorfastness to Washing, Dry Cleaning or Professional Cleaning	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Colorfastness to Bleach** (Chlorine and Non-Chlorine)	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Appearance after Washing, Dry Cleaning or Professional Cleaning	X	X	X	X	X	X

\*Care labels are voluntarily applied on home furnishing products

\*\*Not necessary on fabrics that can only be dry cleaned or professionally cleaned

Test	Curtains, Drapes, Table Linens, Bedspreads	Towels	Sheets, Pillowcases	Blankets, Throws, Quilts, Comforters	Decorative Pillows (Larger than 26"), Cushions	Rugs, Floor Mats
Colorfastness to Light 20 AfU's		X	X	X	X	
Colorfastness to Light 80 AfU's	X					X
Colorfastness to Perspiration		X	X			
Colorfastness to Rubbing / Crocking	X	X	X	X	X	
Colorfastness to Laundering***	X	X	X	X	X	X
Colorfastness to Water	X	X	X	X	X	X
Absorbency		X				
Tensile Strength*		X	X	X	X	
Tearing Strength*		X	X	X	X	
Bursting Strength**			X	X		

\*Conducted on woven fabrics only

\*\*Conducted on knitted fabrics only

\*\*\*Washable products only

Did You Know...The flammability of filled bedding products, including comforters and pillows, contribute significantly to mattress fires. Intertek can assist you with testing your filled bedding products to ensure the products are in compliance with all flammability regulations.

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### About Intertek

Intertek is a leading provider of quality and safety solutions serving a wide range of industries around the world.

From auditing and inspection, to testing, quality assurance and certification, Intertek people are dedicated to adding value to customers' products and processes, supporting their success in the global marketplace.

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