



# Press release

Arnhem, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

## European advice for testing the fire safety of furniture

**Every year, about 5,000 people die in the European Union due to a house fire. The number of deaths and injured can drop sharply when manufacturers improve the testing of fire safety in the production of couches and mattresses. The Federation of the European Union Fire Officer Associations (FEU) comes with recommendations and wants to engage in conversation with furniture manufacturers.**

In the research report 'Fire safety of upholstered furniture and mattresses in the domestic area', the FEU recommends to furniture manufacturers which fire safety tests they can do best. In 25% of the house fires, flammable couches or mattresses were the cause of fire. "And that percentage is way too high," says René Hagen, project leader of the research. "In the United States and in the United Kingdom, fire safety regulations for furniture and mattresses in a living environment have been implemented, in Europe this is not yet the case." With this report, the FEU is giving an opinion on fire safety at a European level for the first time. Fire services discuss the results of this report with, amongst others, manufacturers, suppliers and governments and discuss the actions and measures they can take.

### Improved research methods

Hagen: "The methods for testing the flammability of furniture have changed significantly in recent years. The European advice on fire safety ensures that manufacturers who ship across borders know what they are up to."

### About the FEU

The aim of FEU is to enhance fire safety and provide expertise to European bodies in matters concerning the development of fire brigades and fire safety in Europe and especially in respect of organisation and management, structure; technical skills, training and fire engineering so as to gain the most effective, efficient and economic means for mitigating the loss and damage to life, property and national economies by fire, other emergencies (including catastrophic national disasters) and all related environmental issues.

Download the report 'Fire safety of upholstered furniture and mattresses in the domestic area'  
Visit the [website](#) of the FEU.