

## ***HOW OFTEN SHOULD SOFT-GOOD DECORATIVE MATERIALS NEED ADDITIONAL FLAME RETARDANT APPLICATION?***

This is a common and legitimate question. Firetect's response to this question is as follows:

According to The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 10.2.6.2: Fire-retardant coatings shall possess the desired degree of permanency and shall be maintained so as to retain the effectiveness of the treatment under the service conditions encountered in actual use.

It is difficult to determine how often decorative materials should be treated. If a fabric comes in contact with any liquids, it can change the flame-spread since most flame-retardant is water-soluble. Dirt, atmospheric conditions and cleaning chemicals can change the flame-spread. The safest way to maintain the flame-retardant properties of your decorative materials is to put them on a maintenance schedule that includes cleaning and re-application and certification of flame retardant by a licensed CA Applicator using a CA Certified product.

It is important to train the cleaning crew and include in maintenance procedures to never let fabrics come in contact with liquids. All decorative materials should be tagged with the last date of application, Certified Applicator's information and Flame Retardant Certification Number. In addition, the Certificate of Flame Resistance should be kept on and off-site at all times in case the Certificate of Flame Resistance is needed.

The California State Fire Marshal currently does not have a mandate in place; however 3-5 years is their recommendation.

### ***WHAT ABOUT, "IFR FABRICS"?***

In our experience some, "IFR Fabrics", which are, "inherently flame-retardant and are supposed to be stable for the life of the fabric" may need re-treatment as well. The reasons that these materials sometimes need re-treatment are many.

A NFPA 705 Field Flame Test can be done by an experienced official to provide the Fire Authority with a guideline as to the flammability of the decorative material. It is important that the owner of the material due diligence to maintain the cleanliness and flame resistance of their decorative material and ultimately up to the "Authority Having Jurisdiction" as to how often the Certificate of Flame Resistance should be renewed.

Please contact Firetect, Inc. if you have any questions. Thank you.