

## ***Advocacy Brings Industry Concerns to the Attention of the Consumer Product Safety Commission by Commenting on the Standard for the Flammability of Residential Upholstered Furniture Proposed Rule***

- On May 13, 2008, the Office of Advocacy (Advocacy) filed a comment letter with the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) concerning a proposed rule on flammability standards for residential upholstered furniture under the Flammable Fabrics Act. A complete copy of Advocacy’s comment letter may be accessed at <http://www.sba.gov/advo/laws/comments>.
- On March 4, 2008, the CPSC published a notice of proposed rulemaking in the *Federal Register* titled, “Standard for the Flammability of Residential Upholstered Furniture.” (73 Fed. Reg. 11702, March 4, 2008). The rule would require that manufacturers of upholstered furniture certify compliance with one of two methods of testing upholstery fabrics. They may use cover materials that are sufficiently smolder resistant to meet a cigarette ignition performance test, or they may place fire barriers in the furniture that meet smoldering and open flame resistance test between the cover fabric and interior filling materials.
- CPSC complied with the Regulatory Flexibility Act by including an Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA) in the rule. However, because of industry concerns with some of the data and assumptions contained in the IRFA and in other areas of the rule, Advocacy desired to bring the industry concerns to the attention of the CPSC. Advocacy also asked the CPSC to entertain additional alternatives that would reduce the cost of the regulation on those small businesses.

For more information, visit Advocacy’s web page at [www.sba.gov/advo](http://www.sba.gov/advo) or contact Linwood Rayford at (202) 205-6533.

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