The FF&E fire *documentation matrix*

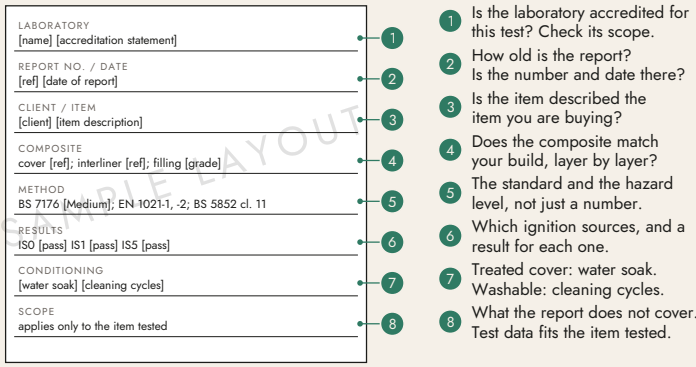
Which fire standard and which certificate each FF&E item needs, and how to read an upholstery test report.

Compliance guidance. This is guidance, not legal or fire safety advice. It rests on the FIRA and British Furniture Confederation guide (2010, updated 2011), the Fire Safety Order 2005, the 1988 Regulations and Approved Document B volume 2 (England, 2026 amendments). The British Standards are paywalled and were not read. Agree the regime, hazard category and wall lining class for each space with the Responsible Person or a fire safety consultant, and with your building control body.

AT A GLANCE

Item	Rules that apply, as read	Standard or class	Evidence to ask for
Upholstered seating, non-domestic	Fire risk assessment (Fire Safety Order 2005) sets the level	BS 7176 at the hazard category set; typically Medium for hotels, Low for offices	UKAS report per composite; foam certificate; label; category in writing
Furniture for a dwelling, holiday home or furnished let	1988 Regulations: furniture for private use in a dwelling	The Regulations' own tests and label (not read in detail)	Evidence of compliance, with label; take advice
Chalet hotel, serviced apartment, mixed use	Grey area (FIRA): at least the 1988 level	Set by a fire consultant	Regime and level in writing before specifying
Non-upholstered seating (shell, mesh)	Building contents in the risk assessment	If requested: BS 5852 clause 12, whole chair, at the level set	Level in writing; report on the complete chair
Mattresses, divans, bed bases	Fire risk assessment sets the category	BS 7177 (BS EN 597-1 and -2; BS 6807 clause 9)	UKAS report; BS 7177 label; category in writing
Pillows, duvets, bedspreads	Fire risk assessment; pillow fillings meet the 1988 tests as a minimum (FIRA)	BS EN ISO 12952-1 to -4; BS 7175 for higher sources	Report for the level set
Curtains, drapes, blinds	Fire risk assessment; suggested Type A low, B medium, C high (FIRA)	BS 5867-2 Type A, B or C, with cleansing durability	Report naming the Type, durability and care instructions
Wall panelling, fabric wall linings (England)	Building Regulations B2; Approved Document B vol 2, Table 6.1	BS EN 13501-1: D-s3, d2 small rooms; C-s3, d2 other rooms; B-s3, d2 other circulation spaces	Classification report for the system as installed; building control's view
Upholstered headboards	Domestic: 1988 Regulations name headboards. Non-domestic: no standard named in the sources read	Not settled: ask the assessor or building control	Route in writing; then a report for the headboard as built
Fitted joinery and case goods	Fitted furniture is outside 'wall' (ADB 6.3); otherwise building contents	None prescribed in the documents read	Only what the assessment asks; record n/a and why
Designer-supplied cloth or leather (COM)	As for the finished item	Cover shown capable of the level over a stated filling	Cloth's report naming its foam; or test with your filling
Fire doors	ADB vol 2, Appendix C (C1, C4); not covered further here	FD30 and so on: BS 476-22, or BS EN 1634-1 and 13501-2	Evidence for the complete installed doorset

Each row feeds the compliance columns of the FF&E schedule template in this library: fire regime, hazard category, fire standard, composite ref, test report ref, report date and label. The level comes from the premises' fire risk assessment, in writing, before you specify.



Parts of an upholstery fire test report to check. A sample layout with placeholders, built from the FIRA and BFC guide, not a real report. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

SIGNS A REPORT DOES NOT COVER YOUR PIECE

- A cover report offered for the finished seat: it applies to the cloth over the foam named in it, not to your filling.
- A foam certificate offered as the seat's: the foam and the finished composite have separate tests.
- A standard number with no level; a different weave, pattern or finish; a different filling or supplier.
- A treated cover with no water soak; an undated, old or abbreviated report; an unaccredited laboratory; a bare claim.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

FIRE REGIME AND LEVEL

Before specification or order, [Responsible Person or fire safety adviser] confirms to [designer] in writing, for each space, the fire regime [fire risk assessment under the Fire Safety Order 2005 / Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988] and the level: hazard category [Low / Medium / High] for seating and mattresses, curtain Type [A / B / C], and lining class [class] by location. Quotations are based on it: [reference, date].

EVIDENCE, CHANGES AND THE FILE

Before production the supplier provides the evidence named in the FF&E schedule, from a laboratory accredited for the method (UKAS or equivalent), for the build as supplied: (a) upholstery: a report for each composite (cover, any interliner, filling) to BS 7176 [Medium] Hazard; (b) mattresses: BS 7177 [Medium]; (c) curtains: BS 5867-2 Type [B] with durability statement; (d) wall panelling: a BS EN 13501-1 classification of the system as installed, class [C-s3, d2], on the substrate shown on the drawings; (e) the permanent label where the standard requires one. Not accepted: a certificate for the cover, foam or board alone; a standard number without a level or class; a report for a different build; an undated or supplier-only statement; a report older than [12] months. A change of cover (other than colour), filling, interliner, treatment, board, adhesive, substrate or supplier after approval needs new evidence before production. Evidence is held in the project certificate file and referenced in the schedule by report reference and date.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- FIRA and BFC, Fire safety of furniture and furnishings in the contract and non-domestic sectors: 2010, updated 2011; read in full 5 Nov 2026.
- Approved Document B volume 2 (2019 edition, 2026 amendments; England): B2, section 6, Appendices B, C read 5 Nov 2026.
- Fire Safety Order 2005 (arts 2, 3, 6, 9); 1988 Regulations (reg 3(1)): read 5 Nov 2026; the Order applies in England and Wales.
- BS 7176, BS 7177, BS 5867-2, BS 5852, BS EN 13501-1: BSI lists 7176, 7177 and 5852 as Current; paywalled, texts not read.
- Home Office, Fire safety risk assessment: sleeping accommodation (12 Sep 2023): read 5 Nov 2026.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/fire-documentation-matrix. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.