Upholstered headboards and wall panels: *which fire test* applies

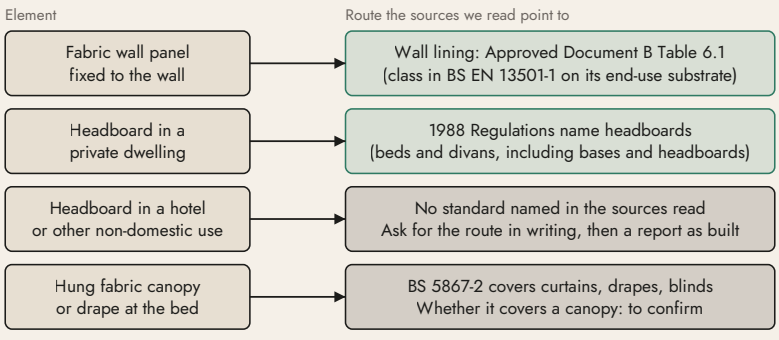
There is no single test for an upholstered headboard or wall panel. A panel fixed to a wall is a wall lining in England. A hotel headboard has no standard named in the documents we read, so the route has to be agreed in writing.

Compliance guidance. Figures are taken from the editions named, read in November 2026, and apply to England. This is guidance, not fire safety or legal advice. Which route applies to a headboard is open in the documents we read: the project fire strategy, a fire engineer, the fire risk assessor or your building control body decides, in writing. No product on this page is claimed to reach any class or pass any test.

AT A GLANCE

Element	Route the sources we read point to	Evidence to ask for
Fabric panel fixed to a wall	Wall lining: Approved Document B Volume 2 Table 6.1 (England), classes to BS EN 13501-1	Test report or classification for the build-up, on the substrate it will be fixed to
Fabric wallcovering bonded to a wall	Table 6.1 note 1: BS EN 15102 wallcovering of at least C-s3, d2 on an A2-s3, d2 substrate is acceptable	Evidence that the product and the substrate match note 1
Headboard fixed to the wall (hotel)	Open: either a lining (Table 6.1) or fitted furniture, which paragraph 6.3(d) leaves out of "wall"	A written ruling from the fire engineer or building control, then a report as built
Headboard attached to the bed or standing free (hotel)	No standard named in the sources we read. BS 7177 covers mattresses, mattress pads, divans and bed bases, not headboards	A written route from the fire risk assessor, then evidence for the headboard as built
Headboard in a private dwelling	The 1988 Regulations name beds and divans, including bases and headboards, for private use in a dwelling	The supplier's compliance statement against the Regulations
Hung fabric canopy or drape	BS 5867-2 covers non-domestic curtains, drapes and window blinds; whether it covers a canopy is to confirm	The assessor's written view, then a report for the fabric as hung
Panel with an acoustic or foam core	Any route: the test applies to the composite as built (Approved Document B paragraphs B2, B8)	A report for the whole build-up, not one layer

England only; Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland were not read. Approved Document B: 2019 edition with amendments to 2026, as published on GOV.UK in November 2026. Guidance, not fire safety or legal advice: no product is claimed to pass anything.



Which route the documents we read point to for each element. Green: a route is named. Grey: none named, or the fit is unconfirmed. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

WALL LINING CLASSES (ENGLAND)

Where	Class
Small room, up to 4 m2 in residential accommodation (30 m2 non-residential)	D-s3, d2
Other rooms	C-s3, d2
Other circulation spaces	B-s3, d2

Approved Document B Volume 2 Table 6.1, 2019 edition with amendments to 2026. Confirm with the fire engineer.

WHAT TO ASK FOR

The route in writing; a report for the build-up as built from a notified body or UKAS-accredited laboratory; a description that matches the product; a fresh report if anything changes.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

WALL PANEL AS A LINING

Fabric wall panel to ref [P-01] to meet [class C-s3, d2] to BS EN 13501-1 as a wall lining to [room type] in [building], as set by [fire engineer] on [date]. Evidence: classification report for the panel as built (board [ ], core [ ], interliner [ ], cover [ ], fixing [ ], substrate [ ]) from a notified body or UKAS-accredited laboratory for the test standard, edition [ ].

HEADBOARD, ROUTE TO BE CONFIRMED

Headboard to ref [H-01], [attached to the bed / fixed to the wall]. Fire route confirmed in writing by [fire risk assessor / building control] on [date] as [ ]. The supplier is to provide a test report for the headboard as built (frame, filling, interliner, cover) to that route, laboratory, standard and edition stated, before production. A seating test alone is not accepted unless that route is named in writing.

COMPOSITE DESCRIPTION

The test report is to describe the product supplied: layers and thicknesses [ ], fixing method [ ], air gap [ ], substrate [ ], and cover fabric reference [ ]. A report that does not match does not satisfy this clause.

TERMS USED

Reaction to fire

How much a product contributes to a fire by its own decomposition, classified A1 to F to BS EN 13501-1 in Approved Document B Appendix B.

Wall lining

The surface of a wall or ceiling, which in England should meet the class in Approved Document B Table 6.1.

Composite

The combination of layers and fixings that was tested together; a report applies to that combination only.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- Approved Document B Volume 2 (England), 2019 edition incorporating the 2020, 2022, 2025 and 2026 amendments: Requirement B2 and its Intention; paras 6.1 to 6.4; Table 6.1; Table 0.1; Appendix B paras B1 to B9. Read 7 Nov 2026.
- Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988, regulation 3(1): definition of furniture. Read 7 Nov 2026.
- BS EN 13501-1:2018; BS 7177:2008+A1:2011; BS 5852:2006; BS 5867-2:2008: BSI lists all four as Current; none read. Confirm against the current editions.
- FIRA and BFC, Fire safety of furniture and furnishings in the contract and non-domestic sectors (2010, updated 2011): sections 1, 2 and 9.3.1 read.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/upholstered-headboards-and-wall-panels-fire-tests. 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.