

# NURSERIES: FIRE REACTION FOR UPHOLSTERED PRODUCTS

Franco Prete

With the circular prot. n. 10472 of 28-07-2017, the Italian Home Office provided the clarifications that CATAS requested in November 2014, regarding some unclear aspects of D.M. 16-07-2014 "Technical regulation of fire prevention for the design, construction and operation of nurseries".

The full document is available for download at website [catas.com](http://catas.com), within the Download Area - Fire Prevention. Below some comments on the answers provided are reported.

## Answer to question 1.

Among the products subject to the requirements, the Italian Home Office excluded those upholstered products having the most different shapes, intended for playing, but which actually are also to be considered furniture items, such as the products mentioned in paragraph 2 - section 3.3, for example the upholstered chairs, armchairs and sofas.

The tables in the document show that only the products mentioned in Table S.1-4 of Chapter S.1 of D.M. 03-08-2015 (New Fire Prevention Code) and which are not already included by D.M. 16-07-2014, or:

- sommier (upholstered beds);
- toppers (mattresses with lower thicknesses);
- pillows

have to be considered.

Considering the significant presence of products intended to be used for playing and the fact that it is sometimes difficult to distinguish them from furniture intended for sitting, the Italian Home Office's response seems to be not in favor of safety.

However, the manufacturer can require the homologation of such products even if it is not mandatory. In this case, it is necessary to evaluate in advance which ways of certification are appropriate or if they are compatible with the Ministry's requirements in this field:

- upholstered furniture intended for seating;
- mattresses;
- pillows.

In fact the specifications issued by the contracting authorities, which may contain more restrictive requirements than the legislator's provisions, are not to be ignored.

## Answer to question 2.

For the products referred to the paragraph 2 - section 3.3, the procedures referred to in Art. 8 and 10 of the D.M. 26-06-1984, amended by D.M. 03-09-2001. The legislator had forgotten to stress this aspect in D.M. 16-07-2014 therefore:

- if the products are on catalog (serial production), they must be certified by a laboratory authorized by the Italian Home Office and subsequently approved by the Ministry itself according to the procedure provided for in art. 8;
- if the products are made on the customer's specifications (one-off production), they must only be certified by a laboratory authorized by the Italian Home Office according to the procedure provided for in art. 10.

For info:

Franco Prete

Tel: 0432-747221

[francoprete@catas.com](mailto:francoprete@catas.com)