

# Anti-decubitus mattresses: clarifications on fire reaction

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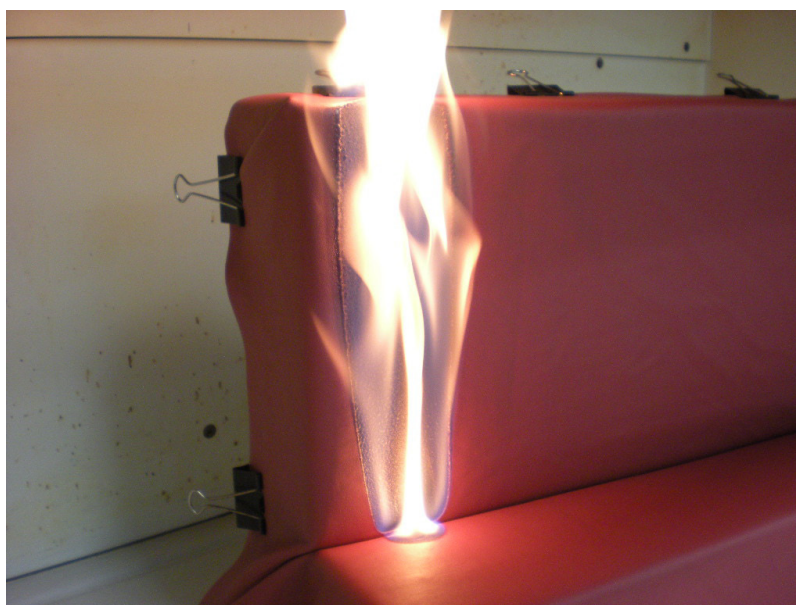
With the letter prot. n. 5212 of 18-04-2017, the Italian Home Office provided some clarification on the possibility of certifying/homologating anti-decubitus mattresses according to the fire reaction standard UNI 9175.

As it is well known, if these products are declared medical devices by the manufacturer, they fall within the scope of the European Directive 93/42/EEC, which is transposed in Italy with the Legislative Decree n. 46 of 24-02-1997. In this case, they are subject to the CE marking with all the consequent and necessary fulfilments.

Among the essential requirements to meet the CE marking, the Annex I to those provisions also requires the assessment of flammability. In consequence such products cannot be homologated because they are no longer covered by the national legislation. Moreover, considering that the harmonized European standards in the field of fire-reaction are not yet available, for the use of such products in activities subject to fire prevention in Italy (hotels, hospitals, rest homes, etc.), the Italian Home Office has recently published the following clarifications:

1) CE marked anti-decubitus mattresses shall not be homologated according to the Italian procedure complying to art. 8 of D.M. 26-06-1984, amended by D.M. 03-09-2001;

2) mattresses can be certified, but not for the purposes of homologation, according to the Italian procedure complying to art. 10 of D.M. 26-06-1984.



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In the case of controls carried out by the local Fire Department, the owner of the activity where the mattresses are used shall present the following documents:

- the CE marking of the mattress;
- a copy of the test certificate issued complying to art. 10 of D.M. 26-06-1984 from a laboratory authorized by the Italian Home Office, such as CATAS. The fire reaction class "IM" type stated in the test certificate must meet the requirement for the mattresses used in that specific activity.

As an alternative to item 2), the manufacturer may apply to the Italian Home Office for recognition of classification obtained in accordance with test standards other than Italian (UNI 9175), following the envisaged by D.M. 5-08-1991 and subsequent ministerial circular no. 18 of 3-08-1998.

In any case, this is a long and complex procedure that can lead to a negative result in case of the rejection of the equivalence between the declared product classification and the "IM" class provided by the legal provisions (for example, tests according to EN 597 - 1 and EN 597-2 are less severe than the UNI 9175 and therefore it is not useful to follow such way). If the producer obtains the acceptance of the equivalence from the Home Office, he must provide a copy of the relevant technical assessment to the responsible of the activity in which the mattresses are used. The Ministry's opinion constitutes an alternative to the test certificate referred to in point 2).

Of course, if the manufacturer does not declare that the mattress is a medical device, the Italian rules being the homologation of the products and their certification in accordance with the procedures of D.M. 26-06-1984, amended by D.M. 03-09-2001 are still valid.

All of the above mentioned measures can be downloaded from [www.catas.com](http://www.catas.com) - Download Area - Prevenzione Incendi.

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