



## **NEWS**

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## **New Voluntary Environmental and Performance Standards for Flexible Polyurethane Foam to Be Launched Spring 2008**

*A new initiative by U.S. flexible polyurethane foam manufacturers will aid consumer confidence in foam safety and performance by establishing voluntary physical performance, environmental, health and safety standards for qualified foams used in upholstered furniture, bedding and automotive seating*

(Knoxville, TN – November 28, 2007) Based on Europe's CertiPUR voluntary foam certification program, the Polyurethane Foam Association (PFA) is developing a similar program for use in the U.S.. The program, to be called CertiPUR-US, will include recommended guidelines for flexible polyurethane foam products in the areas of environmental, health and safety performance based on analysis of foam components and emissions characteristics. A key difference in the CertiPUR-US program will be the addition of physical performance standards that will help quantify durability, consistency, and comfort.

The PFA is working with EUROPUR, the European flexible polyurethane foam manufacturers association and European CertiPUR certification procedures so that the label can be promoted by PFA and EUROPUR as a global indication that foam products meet basic levels of physical performance, environmental responsibility, product content and emissions safety.

"Consumer interest in environmental responsibility, health and safety is growing. The PFA has received many complaints about foam products that can be attributed to furniture and bedding products manufactured in China using Chinese foam components," explained Robert Luedeka, Executive Director of the Polyurethane Foam Association. "The problem is, there are currently no standards in the U.S. for foam cushioning in the area of environmental safety. A voluntary certification program should serve to address this issue. With the CertiPUR-US program in place, consumers can make informed buying decisions."

At the October 4, 2007 PFA General Business meeting in Point Clear, Alabama, PFA task group members finalized the initial *U.S. Voluntary Physical Performance and Environmental Certification Standards for Flexible Polyurethane Foam for Use in Furniture and Bedding Items*. The document establishes baseline criteria for product physical performance, component analysis, and product emissions evaluation.

PFA plans to finalize CertiPUR-US program procedures and participation requirements in early 2008. The draft voluntary standards are currently undergoing a peer-review process. Marketing and communications programs will follow. Participation in the voluntary certification program will be available to any manufacturer of flexible polyurethane foam, domestic or foreign, who submits product samples for independent laboratory analysis to verify CertiPUR-US compliance.

The Polyurethane Foam Association was founded in 1980 to educate customers and other groups about flexible polyurethane foam (FPF). This includes providing facts on environmental, health and safety issues and technical information on the performance of FPF in consumer and industrial products. The PFA membership includes U.S. FPF manufacturers and their suppliers of raw materials, processing and fabrication equipment, and various industry services. For more information, visit [www.pfa.org](http://www.pfa.org).

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