

Amendments to 105 CMR 620.000:
*Bedding, Upholstered Furniture and Related
Products*

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I. Background

- M.G.L. c. 94, § 274 authorizes DPH to promulgate regulations concerning labeling, sterilization, licensing, and other safety requirements for bedding, upholstered furniture and related products sold in Massachusetts.
- DPH promulgated 105 CMR 620.000 in 1962. This regulation helps protect the public by ensuring that natural and synthetic fillers are appropriately labeled, cleaned, and sterilized. The requirements of the regulation have not been substantially revised since it was initially promulgated.
- DPH issues licenses under this regulation for bedding manufacturers.
- DPH's Bureau of Environmental Health proposes amending 105 CMR 620.000 to clarify regulations and conform to definitions and terminology promoted by the International Association of Bedding and Furniture Law Officials as well as those used by the authorizing statute.

II. Proposed Amendments

Proposed amendments include:

- Condensing unnecessarily prescriptive definitions
 - e.g., a full-page definition for “feathers and down”;
- Clarifying labeling requirements to improve readability;
- Removing language specifying rarely-used chemical sterilization methods (e.g., formaldehyde gas and sulphur dioxide). Instead, the amended regulation requires such methods be approved by DPH’s Food Protection Program prior to use.

III. Next Steps

- Following this initial presentation, a public hearing and comment period will be held.
- Approval of the proposed amendments, along with a review of public comments, will be requested at a subsequent meeting of the Public Health Council.
- Following final approval, this regulation will be amended.

Questions?

