



REGULATORY AGENCY ACTION

together to develop a Technical Rule Addendum for the Board of Forestry that will satisfy the needs of both boards.

The Board is still in the process of drafting an informational pamphlet which is intended to inform the public about the existence and jurisdiction of the BRGG. Two drafts have been received so far, but the Board has set no date for estimated completion.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

To be announced.

BOARD OF GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

Executive Officer: Manuel Urena
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The Board of Guide Dogs for the Blind has three primary functions. The Board protects the blind guide dog user by licensing instructors and schools to ensure that they possess certain minimum qualifications. The Board also enforces standards of performance and conduct of these licensees as established by law. Finally, the Board polices unlicensed practice.

There are three guide dog schools in California. These schools train the blind in the use of guide dogs. Each school also trains its own dogs. Each blind person is then matched with a dog using factors such as size and temperament. To provide this specialized service, the schools must have special facilities, which are inspected by the Board members as needed.

The Board consists of seven members, two of whom must be dog users (Business and Professions Code section 7200).

LEGISLATION:

AB 329 (Statham), which would have authorized any person approved by a school licensed for the training of guide dogs for the blind to take the school's dogs into places of public access for the purpose of teaching the guide dogs social skills prior to structured guide dog instruction for which a license is required, was dropped.

AB 676 (Filante), as amended March 28, would authorize the Board to adopt regulations to allow schools which furnish guide dogs or instructors employed by those schools to send trainers to the homes of blind persons to provide training in the use of guide dogs. This bill is pending in the Assembly Ways and Means Committee.

BUREAU OF HOME FURNISHINGS AND THERMAL INSULATION

Chief: Gordon Damant
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The Bureau of Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation (BHF) regulates manufacturers, wholesalers, dealers, upholsterers, retailers, renovators, and sterilizers of furniture and bedding. In addition, the Bureau establishes rules regarding labeling requirements approved by the state Department of Public Health pertaining to furniture and bedding.

To enforce its regulations, the Bureau has access to premises, equipment, materials, and articles of furniture.

The chief or any inspector may open, inspect and analyze the contents of any furniture or bedding and may condemn, withhold from sale, seize or destroy any upholstered furniture or bedding or any filling material found to be in violation of Bureau rules and regulations. The Bureau may also revoke or suspend registration for violation of its rules.

The Bureau is assisted by a thirteen-member Advisory Board consisting of seven public members and six industry representatives.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

Flammability Standards for Furniture in Public Occupancies. On January 5 in Sacramento, the Bureau held a public hearing on proposed higher flammability standards for furniture used in public occupancy buildings. (See CRLR Vol. 9, No. 1 (Winter 1989) pp. 48-49 for background information.) The Bureau's proposed amendments to sections 1374 and 1374.3, Title 4 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), were supported by virtually all participants, including manufacturers and firefighters. The California Hotel/Motel Association and the California Theater Operators provided the main opposition. Both groups asked for certain exemptions from the proposed regulations and indicated that the cost of compliance could be overly burdensome. At this writing, the proposed regulation package has not yet been formally adopted or submitted to the Office of Administrative Law.

In a related development, two trade associations recently held a press conference to advocate national flammability standards, using the Bureau's proposal as a model. The International Association of Firefighters and the American Furniture Manufacturers Association sponsored the event on March 14 in

Washington, D.C.

Proposed Waterbed Regulations. Also on January 5, the Bureau held a regulatory hearing on proposed amendments to its waterbed regulations (see CRLR Vol. 9, No. 1 (Winter 1989) p. 49 for background information). At this writing, the Bureau is still considering comments made at the hearing, including several recommendations by waterbed manufacturers and an expression of complete support for the proposed changes by the National Waterbed Retailers Association.

Increase in License Fees. The Bureau has drafted regulatory amendments to raise its biennial license fees for the first time since 1983. Revenue from current license fees does not cover operating costs, and Chief Damant believes the increase is necessary to meet the Bureau's rising workload. All of the Bureau's eleven classes of licenses would be affected.

Under the draft amendments to section 1107, Title 4 of the CCR, license fees would be raised roughly 20% to the statutory limits specified in Business and Professions Code sections 19034 and 19170. The new fees would range from \$360 for manufacturers and wholesalers, to \$240 for custom upholsterers, to \$80 for retail furniture dealers. At this writing, a period for public comment on the proposed fee increases has not been scheduled.

New Insulation Regulations To Be Proposed. On January 1, 1985, jurisdiction over the sale of insulation in California passed from the California Energy Commission (CEC) to the Bureau. (See CRLR Vol. 5, No. 1 (Winter 1985) p. 35 for background information.) The Bureau was charged with enforcing CEC's regulations until it adopts its own. At its March 7 meeting, the Advisory Board discussed a draft of regulatory changes which would transfer CEC's regulations to Chapter 3, Title 24 of the State Referenced Standards Code, and amend them to include insulation products not presently covered.

The draft regulations would primarily update existing product standards to reflect the latest testing technology. Newly developed insulating materials such as calcium silicate, flexible cellular plastic, and phenolic insulation would be regulated for the first time. The Bureau believes that most progressive manufacturers of unregulated products have already conducted tests to prove safety and performance to consumers. Testing costs are estimated at \$2,000 per product line. A hearing date for public comment