



# Fire-proofing our future: How Standards Help Save People's Lives

Within our modern environments, upholstered furniture, carpets, wall coverings and electronics can easily catch fire and burn fast if they're not properly protected and compliant with high fire safety standards. For this reason, increasing attention should be given to fire safety protection and standards in several countries across the world.








## THE CHALLENGE

 Not all countries equally prioritize fire safety measures, with some opting for looser standards, resulting in significant disparities in protection levels worldwide.

 This disparity presents challenges for industries like construction and furniture production. Navigating these variations can create barriers to meeting diverse requirements and producing fireproof goods that effectively address these market demands.

## WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Robust fire safety standards can:

-  Reduce the risk of fire.
-  Increase the time for escape, evacuation and firefighter intervention.
-  Save lives, prevent injuries and reduce property damage.
-  Prevent massive water / soil pollution.
-  Yield substantial economic savings, potentially saving millions for national economies.

Overall, fire safety standards are crucial in protecting our homes, offices, and transport systems, mitigating the risks of fire and its potentially severe consequences for people.

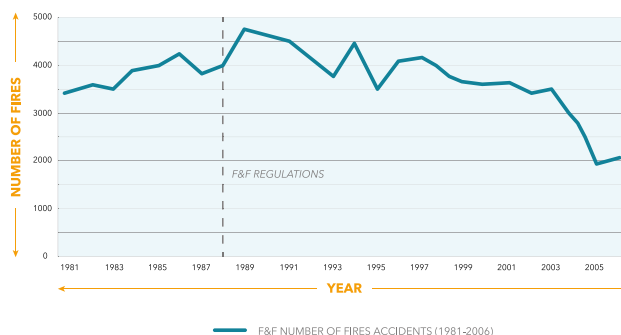
## FIRE FATALITY RATES: UK/IRL VS. US/EU

UK furniture standards, setting out flammability requirements, provide a significantly better performance than in the EU (minus Ireland) or the United States. One successful means of achieving this is through the use of brominated flame retardants (BFRs) in textiles and upholstery.

COUNTRY / REGION	DEATHS DUE TO FIRE IN THE HOME Previous 3 years' data, ave.	POPULATION Millions	FIRE DEATHS PER MILLION HEAD OF POPULATION
USA	3 343 NFPA	327	10.2
EU 28 Minus UK and Ireland	4 600 est.	442	10.4
ENGLAND & WALES	286 DCLG	59	4.8
IRELAND	25 DHP & LG	5	5

## THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF FIRE SAFETY REGULATIONS

UK Government research shows that thousands of lives have been saved since the introduction of UK Furniture Regulations in 1988. A subsequent legislative revision and reinforcement in 2010 resulted in a sustained and significant decrease in fire incidents.



## THE SOLUTION

Guarantee implementation of more robust fire safety standards across markets, for instance by following the British and Irish furniture regulations' examples which provide two times greater protection than EU mainland and US standards. BFRs provide an effective solution to meet higher flammability requirements.

Promote the harmonization of standards across countries and regions to guarantee consistency and enable an easily navigable regulatory framework.

## ABOUT US & OUR MEMBERS

BSEF is the International Bromine Council, representing the bromine technology industry globally. We share knowledge on the benefits of bromine and bromine-based technologies both for society and the economy. We work to promote the safe use and handling of bromine as an essential contributor to a sustainable future. With representative offices in Asia, Europe and North America, BSEF also serves to support its members and market organizations in their engagement with policymakers and regulatory authorities globally.



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