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PRESS RELEASE

Flame retardants increase fire toxicity. New scientific study from Professor Richard Hull.

Upholstery treated with flame retardants does not improve fire safety and makes smoke more hazardous than an untreated alternative when tested for flammability at full scale, according to a scientific investigation.

[The Ends Report](#), in its article by Gareth Simkins published on 13 December 2017, gives the exclusive news on the new research questioning the use of flame retardants in furniture.

The research on “Flame retardants in UK furniture increase smoke toxicity more than they reduce fire growth rate” was preliminary presented by Professor Richard Hull of the University of Central Lancashire during the Eighth International Symposium on Flame Retardants in York, held on 7-10 May 2017.

Professor Hull anticipated the audience that there is “no fire safety advantage of adding flame retardants [as] the reduction in the speed of a fire’s spread is compensated by an increase in fire toxicity”. The research has concluded that an “excellent performance [in terms of fire safety] can be achieved on a large scale without any flame retardants”.

Back in 2014, the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) – in its technical assessment for modification of the furniture & furnishings (fire) (safety) regulations – declared that “it is possible to demonstrate in full scale tests that the Regulations are ineffective”.

This new study, revealed an increasingly clear evidence: flame retardants can increase the toxicity of fires and pose a great threat to human health and the environment. For this reason the Alliance for The Case for Flame Retardant Free Furniture is calling on European and national authorities to take concrete actions against the use of flame retardants.

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