

## Technical Bulletin!

### Flame Retardant and Biocide Additive Removal

#### NEO

In response to increased requests for more environmentally-friendly products, Spradling International Inc.® announces initiatives to remove flame-retardant additives and biocides from product lines within our Contract Upholstery portfolio. This will require a transition period as we work through current inventory and the new vinyl formulations are introduced. Reformulated product will be identified by adding the word NEO to the pattern description, adding a green sticker to the packaging and changing the identifying back print on the material. In addition, there will be notification via order acknowledgment and invoice copy. Our goal is to be transparent throughout this process, and we will communicate our progress as we proceed.

#### Why are we doing this?

**Flame Retardant Additives (FR):** After years of advocacy by public health groups, TB-117 was revised at the direction of California Governor Jerry Brown to allow manufacturers to phase out certain flame retardants without compromising fire safety. The policy was renamed TBI 17-2013 and became mandatory as of January 1, 2015 and is recognized by all 50 states. The State of California even rescinded Cal 133 as of January 22, 2019 indicating a more relaxed regulatory stance in light of the desire to eliminate FR additives.

Furthermore, a dozen states have passed over two dozen policies banning flame retardants. Maine's new law phases out all flame-retardant chemicals in residential upholstered furniture. Rhode Island and Maine are halting the sale of new upholstered furniture containing flame retardants, and San Francisco may follow suit.

Several of the nation's largest retailers have eliminated or begun phasing out furniture with chemicals known as flame retardants. The nation's largest furniture retailer and manufacturer, Ashley® Furniture Industries, Inc. has announced it will be eliminating some flame-retardant chemicals.

The good news is that our products still pass Cal 117, UFAC Class I and NFPA 260.

**Biocides/Anti-Microbials (AM):** In addition to the trend to remove flame retardants, there is also a move to eliminate the use of certain biocides in consumer products. Kaiser Permanente® has banned the use of 13 antimicrobial chemicals and elements added to fabrics, furniture and finishes. The decision follows a commitment Kaiser made to remove furniture containing flame-retardant chemicals from its facilities. The list of products can be found in the below chart.

### Non-phthalate Products



To address demand for non-phthalate products, we are introducing our EcoSense brand with forthcoming introductions of Maglia™, Edgeline™, and Verano™; which will also be free of flame retardants and biocides.

**Phthalates:** Starting with the very first vinyl-coated fabric, certain members of this family of plasticizers have been recognized for superior performance, processability, durability, versatility and affordability while few alternatives have been able to satisfactorily match all of their unique characteristics. But with concerns of potential health and regulatory issues, Spradling International has developed the non-phthalate EcoSense brand utilizing non-controversial plasticizers with properties that match those of phthalate-based coated fabrics and will now be California Proposition 65 compliant.



# UPDATE

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## List of Formulation Changes by Product:

PATTERN	ADJUSTMENT
CHAMBRAY NEO	FR & AM FREE
FLORIDIAN NEO	FR FREE
GUARDIAN NEO	PHTHALATE AND FR FREE
HITCH NEO	FR FREE
INCLINATION NEO	FR & AM FREE
INTERLACE NEO	FR & AM FREE
INVISION NEO	FR & AM FREE
KALEIDOSCOPE NEO	FR & AM FREE
KILKENNY TWEED NEO	FR & AM FREE
PATRIOT NEO	FR & AM FREE
PRELUDE NEO	FR & AM FREE
REFLEX NEO	FR & AM FREE
RENAISSANCE NEO	FR & AM FREE
SAVOY II NEO	PHTHALATE, FR AND AM FREE
SCRIBE NEO	FR & AM FREE
SEQUINS NEO	FR & AM FREE
SILVERTEX NEO	FR FREE
STRATOSPHERE NEO	FR & AM FREE
TREXX MET MQ NEO	FR FREE
WHISPER NEO	FR & AM FREE



PATTERN	ADJUSTMENT
EDGE LINE - (COMING SOON)	PHTHALATE, FR AND AM FREE
MAGLIA - (COMING SOON)	PHTHALATE, FR AND AM FREE
VERANO - (COMING SOON)	PHTHALATE, FR AND AM FREE

For more information visit [spradlingvinyl.com/neo](http://spradlingvinyl.com/neo)