

## SEMINAR ON

### **FIRE SAFETY IN PUBLIC PLACES/BUILDINGS – IMPORTANCE OF FIRE RETARDANT TEXTILES**

There have been many fire incidents in the recent past in public buildings/places, marriage pandals, shopping malls and exhibition grounds etc which have led to enormous loss of life and property of the masses. In this context it is emphasized that there is an urgent need for increasing awareness among the various user sectors about the latest developments in India in the area of fire resistant textiles and their testing with the intention that such fire resistant textiles are essentially used in the public places/buildings including theatres, hospitals etc.

The causes of fire could be many such as electric short circuiting, ignition, etc. It is established fact that the origin of fire may not be that much dangerous and hazardous as the ease of ignition and spreading of fire due to combustible materials such as textiles, plastics, upholstered furnitures, etc. Depending upon the type of materials encountered in burning, its ease of ignition and its fire spread properties, the extent of damage to the life and property could be enormous. In order to prevent or minimize the damage to life and property due to such fire risks, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has brought out a series of standards for fire resistant textiles such as curtains, drapes, upholstered furniture etc to be used in public places/buildings and also for children clothing and ladies wear.

It needs to be borne in mind that fire resistant finishes used to reduce the ignitability of a textile or textile assembly may adversely affect other fire properties such as smoke and toxic gas evolution and this aspect of smoke and toxicity is of paramount importance while assessing the loss to life of masses. UPHAR Cinema Fire was a burning example of the same. Therefore, it is desirable that the finishing materials used for various surfaces and decorations including textiles should be such that it does not generate toxic smoke and/or fumes. BIS has also brought out standards for smoke density/toxicity during burning of textiles.

Specification for resistance to ignition of textile materials and assemblies for use in the public buildings/places as well as for children's clothing exist in various developed countries as a fall out of various legislation, Rules or Acts, etc. or directions of local bodies. The trend is increasing in other countries also and India should be no exception to this. Indian standards lay down emphasis on matching the magnitude of threat posed in various places/buildings with commensurate performance levels of fire resistant textile materials for curtains, drapes and upholstered furniture materials so as to ensure safety of the life and property. The list of buildings/places under different fire hazard categories has been included as per SP 7:2005 'National Building Code of India 2005'

In this context it is felt appropriate to organize a seminar on the above subject in order to draw the attention of user sectors (builders and architects, hospitals, theatres,

shopping malls, exhibition/marriage pandals, tent houses, automobiles), policy makers, regulators, insurance agencies etc for use of fire resistant textiles in order to minimize the loss to life and property due to fire.

It is in this context that Textiles Department of the Bureau is organizing a seminar on **Fire Safety in Public Places/Buildings – Importance of Fire Retardant Textiles on 14 February 2007 at BIS Auditorium, 9 Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi** to draw the attention of user sectors (builders and architects, hospitals, theatres, shopping malls, exhibition/marriage pandals, tent houses, automobiles), policy makers, regulators, insurance agencies etc for use of fire resistant textiles in order to minimize the loss to life and property due to fire.

For invitation please contact: Director( Textiles)  
Ph 011- 23231282  
email: [txd@bis.org.in](mailto:txd@bis.org.in)