

**NFPA®**

# 261

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**Standard Method of Test  
for Determining Resistance of  
Mock-Up Upholstered Furniture  
Material Assemblies to Ignition  
by Smoldering Cigarettes**

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**2018**



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## NFPA® 261

### Standard Method of

## Test for Determining Resistance of Mock-Up Upholstered Furniture Material Assemblies to Ignition by Smoldering Cigarettes

### 2018 Edition

This edition of NFPA 261, *Standard Method of Test for Determining Resistance of Mock-Up Upholstered Furniture Material Assemblies to Ignition by Smoldering Cigarettes*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Fire Tests. It was issued by the Standards Council on November 10, 2017, with an effective date of November 30, 2017, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 261 was approved as an American National Standard on November 30, 2017.

### Origin and Development of NFPA 261

Regulation of the manufacture of furniture has been a subject of research and debate since 1967, when the Flammable Fabrics Act was amended by Congress to include products in addition to wearing apparel and home textiles that might constitute an unreasonable flammability risk. The National Bureau of Standards (NBS) began funding laboratory research on the subject in 1968. With its formation in 1973, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) became the government agency responsible for administration of the Flammable Fabrics Act, including the adoption of any program or standard regulating upholstered furniture. The NBS retained responsibility for designing test methods related to flammable fabrics.

In 1976, the NBS submitted a draft to the CPSC for a proposed cigarette-ignition resistance standard for upholstered furniture. Shortly thereafter, however, a reorganization of the CPSC into separate program areas took place. That reorganization was followed by nearly a year's worth of work on the commission's children's sleepwear standards, due to findings that a chemical added to sleepwear to make it flame retardant might be carcinogenic. In November 1978, the CPSC staff, after modifying the original standard on upholstered furniture proposed by the NBS, recommended to the CPSC commissioners that they publish the standard.

This standard was developed by the Technical Committee on Fire Tests subsequent to the CPSC actions of 1978–1979 and drew heavily on the NBS research and proposed test methodology. The first edition, published in 1983, was identified as NFPA 260B. The 1989 edition was a reconfirmation of the first edition and was renumbered as NFPA 261. The 1994 and 1998 editions represented reconfirmation of the standard with minor editorial clarifications and stylistic revisions. For the 2003 edition, the chapter layout of NFPA 261 was reorganized to conform to the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*. The 2009 edition contained mainly editorial revisions. The 2013 edition has been revised to reference the SRM 1196 cigarettes, and annex material added to explain the revision.

The 2018 edition includes a new section and annex material on repeatability and precision.