

Appendix 1: List of Health and Safety Checks

- **Mattresses/Upholstered bed bases:** must comply with fireproofing standard BS7177: 1991. This is checked by looking for a blue label stating compliance attached to the item and has the text “RESISTANT”. The standard is not that it is entirely flame resistant, but that it will not catch light easily from contact with matches or cigarettes. Items would have to be checked for this to ensure that they could not contribute to a fire.
- **Suites/settees:** must have label stating compliance with 1988 fire safety regulations. This label will read “CARELESSNESS CAUSES FIRE” at the top and will state that the material is cigarette resistant or that it does not contain a Schedule 3 Interliner. The standard is not that it is entirely flame resistant, but that it will not catch light easily from contact with matches or cigarettes. Items would have to be checked for this to ensure that they could not contribute to a fire.
- **Fridges/freezers:** existing furniture banks such as the Lighthouse Project refuse to take any fridges older than ten years due to the content of hazardous chemicals in their insulating foam or refrigerant. Whether these are present is discovered by checking a plate attached to the fridge with the manufacture, model and serial number. Pre-1994 codes would state R11 or R12 if unsafe, 1994-2000 codes state R22/R141b/R142b or R134a if unsafe chemicals are used. Checking for these codes would ensure that only fridges which were produced without these chemicals would be taken by the furniture bank.
- **Electrical Equipment:** all electrical equipment would need to be subject to Portable Appliance Test (PAT). A PAT tester is a piece of equipment which costs around £500 and would require members of staff who have received relevant training in PAT testing to run.
- **Gas Fires:** gas fires are not currently accepted by existing furniture banks such as the Lighthouse Project due to the potential safety risks they present. It is recommended that any Council run furniture bank also adopts this policy to reduce potential safety issues caused by faulty gas equipment.
- **Glass items:** the Lighthouse Project do not take any donations of items such as tables and cabinets which contain glass. It is too difficult to ascertain whether the glass meets safety requirements. It is recommended that any Council run furniture bank also adopts this policy to reduce potential safety issues caused by glass hazards.