



CertiPUR-US® Foam Certification Program

Questions and Answers for Foam Producers

The CertiPUR-US® program is a testing, analysis and certification program for flexible polyurethane foam used as a cushioning material in home furnishings such as adult mattresses, crib mattresses, upholstered furniture and some accessory comfort products. The certification is restricted to prime flexible polyurethane foam made primarily with polyether polyols and intended for furniture and bedding applications. The program was originally based on the EuroPUR CertiPUR program, but today they are separate programs with separate technical requirements.

CertiPUR-US® certified flexible polyurethane foams are independently laboratory tested and certified to be:

- ✓ Made without ozone depleters
- ✓ Made without PBDEs, TDCPP or TCEP ("Tris") flame retardants
- ✓ Made without mercury, lead, and other heavy metals
- ✓ Made without formaldehyde
- ✓ Made without phthalates regulated by the Consumer Product Safety Commission
- ✓ Low VOC (Volatile Organic Compound) emissions for indoor air quality (less than 0.5 parts per million)

How does a foam producer certify a foam?

Start by reading the *Physical Performance and Environmental Guidelines for Certification of Slabstock Flexible Polyurethane Foam for Use in Furniture and Bedding* which describes the standards and process by which a foam can be certified. We call this document the *Technical Guidelines* it includes information about criteria, eligible foam groups, testing methods and thresholds, prohibited substances, sampling procedures, and more. There are separate *Technical Guidelines* for molded foams.

Can foam producers outside the U.S. certify foam?

Yes. We currently have more than 50 foam producers participating in the program from the United States, China, Canada, Mexico, Columbia, Vietnam and Turkey.

What types of foams can be certified?

Foam Product Groups:

- Conventional polyether foams
- Conventional FR polyether foams (sharing the same flame retardant package)
- Super-soft (low density/low index) conventional foams – 25% IFD ≤15 lbs. (65 N) and density ≤1.5 lbs/ft³ (24 kg/m³)
- High resilience foams
- High support foams
- Viscoelastic (memory) foams
- Viscoelastic (memory) foams with gel
- Others, to be reviewed by administrator

Your Customers Benefit

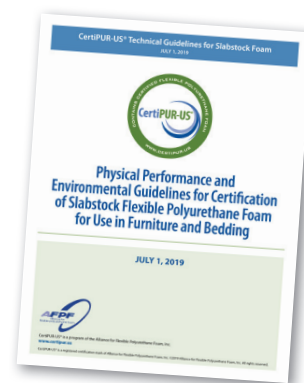
Companies that purchase certified foam from you can earn permission to use our logo, have a listing in our online consumer directory at certipur.us/listings and access free and low-cost marketing materials – as long as they register (it's free). Registration requires a form you submit to verify that you are selling the customer CertiPUR-US® certified foam and your customer submits indicating that they agree to the terms of the program. Learn more at certipur.us/register.

How do I get started certifying a foam?

If you are interested in qualifying your slabstock or molded flexible polyurethane foams for the program, the first step would be to read the *Technical Guidelines* at www.certipur.us/technicalguidelines and request an application from Executive Director Michael Crowell at mcrowell@certipur.us, or 828.455.6192.

Foam producers may apply for certification of foam product groups of equivalent qualified flexible polyether polyurethane foam products (i.e. a number of flexible polyurethane foam products having various physical characteristics, but sharing the same raw materials).

Separate application and registration would be necessary for foam products manufactured from differing raw materials. It is the responsibility of the foam manufacturer to notify raw material suppliers when registration has been achieved so that they can advise the foam manufacturer if raw material formulation changes are anticipated during the duration of the registration period.



Do you recommend testing foams before applying for certification?

Yes. It would be to your benefit to work with one of the four approved labs listed in the *Technical Guidelines* to be sure that your flexible polyurethane foams can pass the VOC testing. This is the test that most flexible polyurethane foam manufacturers have problems passing. Once you feel confident with the initial lab results, you should submit the flexible polyurethane foam family to the full battery of testing required by the CertiPUR-US® Program (analytical and physical testing).

As you will see on the application and in the *Technical Guidelines*, we can only accept foam of flexible polyether foam used in the bedding and furniture industry that do not contain any ozone depleters (example CFCs and methylene chloride blowing agents) and a number of prohibited chemical items listed in Section 2 and Section 5 of the *Technical Guidelines*. We will investigate your company to be sure all of the items signed off on in the application are in compliance.

How long does the certification process take?

From start to finish the process will take about 60 days, including the analytical testing which takes about 3 to four 4 weeks, depending on the lab you choose to use.

Do foams have to be re-certified?

Certified foams must be re-certified every six months for the first year, and annually thereafter.

What does it cost to certify one foam family (similar formulations)?

Below are the typical costs for the CertiPUR-US® program for the first year and then on an annual basis.

CertiPUR-US® fees* for each foam family			
	Initial Costs	1st 6 months	Annual Costs
Registration	\$3500 USD	\$3500 USD	\$3500 USD
New Foam Fee	\$2500 USD	-----	-----
International Verification	\$2500 USD	\$2500 USD	\$2500 USD
Approximate Lab Testing fees for each foam family (Your company negotiates and contracts the lab for testing)			
Analytical lab	\$3000 USD	\$3000 USD	\$3000 USD
Physical Property**	\$550-2000 USD	\$550-2000 USD	\$550-2000 USD

*Subject to change

**Foam producers do not have to incur outside costs for the physical property testing if they have the capability to conduct ASTM D3574 within their own facilities.

For more information contact:

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www.certipur.us