

Linkwise Newsletter

We write to provide an update.

The Court was due to give directions on 27th February 2009, which we hoped would start to bring cases to a conclusion. Unfortunately the Judge had to cancel the hearing and it will now be re-listed towards the end of March 2009.

A number of issues remain outstanding. For those clients who have purchased furniture manufactured by Linkwise, Eurosofa and Soffine liability has been accepted by the retailers, although subject in individual cases to consideration as to whether the medical evidence is consistent with exposure to DMF.

In all other cases i.e. furniture manufactured by all other manufacturers, the Defendants reject liability on the basis that such furniture did not contain DMF and there is no evidence that it was contaminated with any other chemical.

We are currently undertaking testing of furniture and making enquiries with medical experts and laboratories to establish if we can identify any other chemical that may have been used by Chinese manufacturers, to protect their furniture from mould growing. Unfortunately this is something of a "needle in a haystack" exercise but we will be continuing with this over the course of the next month or two and will hopefully have an update for all our clients whose furniture was manufactured by other companies, in the near future.

It seems possible that further publicity will be given to this case as a result of a recent decision by the European Union to ban DMF in all products imported into the EU. This follows problems in France and Poland in particular but also other European countries where DMF has been found in imported furniture and shoes made in China.

Our decision to delay obtaining medical evidence appears to have been sensible. We have heard recently that DMF may have been used in various consumer products by Chinese manufacturers and that exposure to these other products, which include for example cosmetics, could result in a further reaction to somebody who has already been sensitised by exposure to DMF.

We are also working with the Defendants to agree a compensation system based on the medical evidence and more news on this will follow shortly.

Yours faithfully

Russell Jones + Walker

RUSSELL JONES & WALKER

