

## THE DIFFICULTIES OF FLAMMABILITY TESTING OF LEATHER SEAT CUSHION MATERIALS

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Leather seat covers were once the province of private jets and first class seats. They have now become common throughout the entire aircraft, even in large, transport type planes. The material we call "leather" has also changed dramatically. The advent of worldwide manufacturing, ever more advanced coatings, and hybrid natural/synthetic constructions have changed the characteristics of the material. When exposed to flame, leather may expand, shrink or split. This makes for a very dynamic testing problem. This talk explores the current state of leather materials, test methods, and material challenges, and looks at work currently being done to evaluate the effectiveness of leather seat testing methods.