

## Customer Own Cover (COC) Guide

ercol offers a broad choice of around a hundred different fabrics from our collection. Every year we attend the various fabric shows and update our range to bring you our favourites from the new season collections, as well as maintaining a broad offering of design classics. However, some customers have their own favourite fabric, and we are pleased to be able to offer to make our upholstery in your own choice of fabric (COC). This flexibility is just one of the advantages of dealing with a British company.

### Selecting your cover

We put a lot of expertise into the selection of our fabrics which must meet stringent criteria. Obviously we cannot be responsible for the performance of a fabric that you select, which will be the responsibility of yourself and your fabric supplier. However, we would suggest you consider the following:-

Fabric use – is this fabric designed for use on furniture, as opposed to say for curtains. Since you will be sitting on it, the performance needed of a furniture fabric is much more demanding.

Abrasion performance – this is how well your fabric will wear – there are a number of standard tests which score the fabric. A well known test is the Martindale test. Ask your supplier for the fabric's rating under this. You should look for a minimum of 20,000 rubs with a higher level in the event of heavy use.

Colour fastness – you should ask both about the fabric's tendency to fade in light and about the fastness of colour to rubbing (its Crock test) to ensure the fabric colour will not come off on your clothes.

Flexibility – certain of our designs require us to gather the fabric, sometimes into a pleated effect. If a fabric is particularly stiff we may not be able to use it on these designs. If your chosen fabric is stiff or thick please discuss with our Customer Service Department.

Pile compression and pile shading - some fabrics have a raised pile. These may be susceptible to crushing when sat on. Other fabrics can change their appearance depending on the direction of the pile and hence can show where they have been sat on and can look to be different shades on different cushions depending on the pile direction. Many people accept this as inherent in their fabric, but if this would not be acceptable to you, do ensure you ask your supplier about this. These fabrics will also show pile crush when used on webbing seats and so may not be appropriate if you wish to be able to reverse the covers.

Pilling – certain fabrics are susceptible to the formation of pills (small bobbles) when rubbed in use. A moderate level of pilling is not a fault and can generally be removed using a specialist fabric shaver but if you do not want this you should ask for the fabric's pilling rating (under BS5811).

Seam slippage. With upholstery, the cushion seams can come under considerable forces. Seam slippage occurs when the density of the fabrics or the construction is low, with less warp and weft per inch. Sometimes seam slippage occurs when a chemical, like resin or silicon is added on the surface of the fabric. This makes the fabric yarns more slippery and also reduces the tensile strength of the fabric. You should check that your fabric is suitable for sewing for upholstery.

#### Fire retardancy

It is a legal requirement that fabrics used for domestic upholstery must comply with The Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988. We will require a Certificate of Compliance or similar with your fabric to prove that it meets these regulations. Your supplier will be able to organise this. This should show that the fabric complies with BS5852 Part 1 Ignition Source 0 & 1 Cigarette and Match tests.

#### Fabric performance and quality

Obviously ercol cannot take responsibility for the performance or suitability of a fabric that has not been supplied by us and any issues in relation to this will be down to your supplier. Similarly with any fabric faults. You should note that it is sometimes not possible to detect faults in the fabric until an item has been made up. Where it becomes necessary for us to rework or remake an item due to issues with a COC fabric supplied to us then we may make an additional charge for such rework and additional fabric may be required.

#### Sending us your fabric

Please send your fabric to:

ercol, Fabric Stores, Summerleys Road, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire, HP27 9PX.

Please ensure it is clearly marked with your name, your retailer's name, your retailer's order number and if possible our order number.

The fabric should be sent rolled up, face inwards, rather than folded. Folding can lead crease marks which can be difficult to remove.

As with all our orders, your furniture will be individually made to your order. Since we have no control over when your COC fabric will be delivered to us, please be aware that we cannot load your order into our production programme until we have received the fabric from your supplier.

#### Fabric quantity

We will be happy to provide you with an estimate of the quantity of fabric required for your chosen suite. Please contact Customer Services or your retailer for help with this. These estimates are not precise and will depend on how we lay up your suite for cutting. Accordingly, we will normally modestly over-estimate the fabric requirement.

The quantity of fabric required will depend on the pattern of the fabric and its pattern repeat. For us to be able to give a more accurate use estimate we need the details below:-

