

## Ask the **Expert**

What should I know before specifying flame retardant fabric? Current US marretardancy perforket standards relating to flame retardant chemicals are the National Fire Protection Authority 701.1 and 701.2, which is broadly used in our industry. The other standard is the California State Fire Marshal Standard method 1237.1. While it's acceptable to test one color and apply that test to the whole range, we've found that pigment and pigment technology can have an

of 100 tests. influence over flame too. If we're promot-



want consumers Although we've to be confident been working on flame retardant they're getting a products for more product that's compliant with safety than two years, we standards. had a brutal sum-Architects, engineers, or designers who specify our commercial shade fabric for large public areas can rest assured no other company applies that breadth of compliance in testing standards. We offer three distinct products designed for dif- temperatures are ferent sized projects and applications; we can offer that breadth to fulfill a number of specific requirements. These products are best suited for projects where there is a conscious requirement around

retardant shade fabric.

ing safety in our

product range, we

mer here in Australia and a high public awareness around products that will perform and provide safety in such an environment. There is a growing consciousness around products used in applications and environments where getting more extreme; performance characteristics need to adapt and be suitable for the changing environment in which we're living.

to specify flame

retardant products.

Andrew Nasarczyk, Research and **Development Manager, GALE** 

Pacific

Australia-based GALE Pacific has been manufacturing shade fabrics for 40-plus years, initially for agricultural, crop, and produce protection. Over time they've broadened the application for people protection-manufacturing a comprehensive line of architectural shade fabrics. As GALE Pacific places safety above everything else, it was a natural extension of the company's line to manufacture flame retardant shades that meet the most stringent global fire standards. The newest lines are the Commercial NinetyFive 340 FR; Commercial Heavy 430 FR, and Commercial DualShade 350 FR. Andrew Nasarczyk, research and development manager for GALE Pacific, explains why the company exceeded the testing threshold for its flame

> Read more in the fall issue when GALE Pacific explores fabrics and flexibility in design.



122 SUMMER 2020

GALE Pacific's commercial shade fabric undergoes extensive testing across colors. The company offers three distinct products designed for different sized projects and applications.