

CONFIRMED
DECEMBER 2007

Specification for

Hospital ward cots for children

Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by the Health Care Standards Policy Committee (HCC/-) to Technical Committee HCC/31, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- Associated Offices Technical Committee
- Association of British Paediatric Nurses
- British Paediatric Association
- Chartered Society of Physiotherapy
- Consumer Policy Committee of BSI
- Crown Suppliers
- Department of Health
- Department of the Environment (Property Services Agency)
- Furniture Industry Research Association
- Independent Engineering Insurers' Committee
- Joint Committee of Professional Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting Associations (England)
- King Edward's Hospital Fund for London
- Royal College of Nursing and National Council for Nurses of the United Kingdom

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Health Care Standards Policy Committee, was published under the authority of the Board of BSI and comes into effect on 31 December 1990

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First published December 1950
Second edition August 1953
Third edition December 1990

The following BSI references relate to the work on this standard:
Committee reference HCC/31
Draft for comment 88/54029 DC

ISBN 0 580 18691 1

Amendments issued since publication

Amd. No.	Date	Comments

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Foreword

This British Standard has been revised under the direction of the Health Care Standards Policy Committee. It supersedes BS 1694:1953, which is withdrawn.

BS 1694 was first published in 1950 with the title “*Children’s cots (Hospital type)*,” and was subsequently revised in 1953, with the title “*Hospital ward cots for children*”.

The major change in this second revision is the introduction of requirements and corresponding test methods for the structural strength and stability of the cot, and for the durability, ignitability and toxic constituents of the surface finish. The specification of such performance requirements has superseded the detailed requirements for materials, design and construction that were to be found in the 1953 edition. It has not proved possible to specify certain characteristics of the surface finishes, and guidance on these aspects is given in Appendix A.

A number of variations in design and fittings are permitted and Appendix B gives information that the purchaser should supply to the manufacturer when ordering a cot.

Product certification. Users of this British Standard are advised to consider the desirability of third party certification for product conformity with this British Standard, based on testing and continuing surveillance which may be coupled with assessment of a supplier’s quality systems against the appropriate Part of BS 5750.

Enquiries as to the availability of third party certification schemes will be forwarded by BSI to the Association of Certification Bodies. If a third party certification scheme does not already exist, users should consider approaching an appropriate body from the list of Association members.

Alternatively, users of this British Standard may wish to consider the desirability of assessment and registration of a supplier’s quality systems against the appropriate Part of BS 5750 by a third party certification body.

This British Standard calls for the use of procedures that may be injurious to health if adequate precautions are not taken. It refers only to technical suitability and does not absolve the user from legal obligations relating to health and safety at any stage.

In particular, attention is drawn to the procedure for testing ignitability. This procedure should be carried out by trained personnel under adequate supervision, and precautions should be taken to safeguard the health of personnel against the risk of fire or inhalation of smoke and toxic products of combustion.

A British Standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users of British Standards are responsible for their correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 10, an inside back cover and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.

1 Scope

This British Standard specifies requirements for children's cots suitable for general purpose use in hospitals and similar institutions.

This standard does not apply to cribs, travelling cots, cots that are convertible into beds, and domestic cots.

This standard does not specify requirements for buffering but buffering devices may be fitted as an option (see Appendix B).

This standard does not apply to cot mattresses.

NOTE 1 Polyurethane foam cot mattresses are specified in BS 5223-2 and methods of test for ignitability are specified in BS 5852-2 and BS 6807.

NOTE 2 Attention is drawn to BS 1753 which specifies the requirements for domestic cots.

NOTE 3 The titles of the publications referred to in this standard are listed on the inside back cover.

2 Materials

The framework of the cot shall be made of steel tubing complying with BS 6323.

3 Surface finish

3.1 Durability

The surface finish of the cot shall comply with the requirements of Table 1, when tested in accordance with the methods of test given in the table and examined with normal or corrected vision.

The surface finish of the test panels used in these tests shall be applied and dried in the same manner and under the same conditions as the finish applied to the cot.

NOTE Appendix A gives guidance on the choice of a suitable surface finish.

3.2 Toxicity

The surface finish shall comply with the requirements for the maximum permissible levels of toxic metals given in 5.2 of BS 4751:1984.

4 Fasteners

All fasteners used in the construction of the cot shall either be self-locking or be fitted with a locking device.

5 Overall dimensions

The dimensions of the cot, excluding buffering if fitted, shall be as given in Table 2.

NOTE 1 The thickness of the mattress to be used in the cot should be not less than 100 mm.

NOTE 2 The purchaser should state in the enquiry or order whether buffering is required (see Appendix B).

6 Drop sides

6.1 General

The cot shall be fitted with two drop sides, each of which shall be constructed with vertical rails.

When the cot sides are in the fitted position, there shall be no horizontal bars, ledges, projections or other parts except for the bottom side and end rails within the cot on which a child could get a foothold between 50 mm and 510 mm above the mattress platform.

The drop sides shall be stowable within the perimeter of the cot and, when the cot sides are in a stowed position, the upper edge of the drop side shall not project vertically or horizontally by more than 100 mm above the top of the mattress platform.

The mass of each drop side shall not exceed 8 kg.

The drop sides shall not be removable from within the cot or unintentionally from outside the cot.

NOTE Appendix A gives guidance on cot design.

6.2 Bar spacing

The spacing, measured at any point between adjacent bars of the drop sides, shall be such that there are no gaps between adjacent rails of less than 70 mm or more than 78 mm.

6.3 Retaining devices

There shall be two independent devices for retaining each of the drop sides at the full-height position. Each drop side shall be equipped with a locking mechanism which shall operate automatically.

Two separate, simultaneous, operations, involving the use of two hands shall be required before the drop side can be lowered. The locking mechanisms shall be situated such that they cannot be operated by the occupant of the cot.

One sample of the locking mechanism shall be tested in accordance with the test given in Appendix C and shall function correctly upon completion of the test.