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Specification for

Hospital ward bedsteads for psychiatric hospitals

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Committees responsible for this British Standard

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

- Association of British Paediatric Nurses
- Association of National Health Service Supplies Officers
- British Paediatrics' Association
- British Surgical Trades Association Incorporated
- Department of Health and Social Security
- Royal College of Midwives
- Royal College of Nursing and National Council for Nurses of the UK
- Stainless Steel Fabricators' Association of Great Britain

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Foreword

This revision of this British Standard has been prepared under the direction of the Health Care Standards Committee. It supersedes BS 1979:1953 which was published under the title "*Hospital ward bedsteads for mental hospitals*", and is now withdrawn.

The major change in this revision is the introduction of requirements and corresponding test methods for the structural strength and stability of the bedstead and for the durability 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 The specification of such performance requirements has superseded the detailed requirements for materials, design and construction that were to be found in the 1953 edition.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 finish, but guidance on these aspects is given in Appendix A.

The Committee responsible for the preparation of this revision has adopted this approach in order to allow designers and manufacturers a degree of flexibility in the production of bedsteads of modern and aesthetically pleasing design. It is believed that the use of bedsteads of a style similar to domestic bedsteads is of value in diminishing the "institutional" atmosphere that is considered undesirable to the well-being of certain psychiatric, geriatric and similar patients. Guidance on design is given in Appendix A.

Many of the features and provisions of the "Kings Fund" hospital bedstead specified in BS 4886-1 and BS 4886-2 have not been included because they are not considered necessary for the use for which the bedsteads specified in this revision of BS 1979 are intended. However, the requirements for the strength of the bedstead structure and the major dimensions of the bedstead are similar to those specified in BS 4886.

A number of variations in design of bedstead are provided for and Appendix B gives information that the purchaser should supply to the manufacturer when ordering a bedstead.

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 procedures 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 8, 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 materials, finishes, dimensions, construction and strength for bedsteads of fixed height suitable for general purposes in psychiatric and geriatric hospitals and similar institutions. Requirements for height adjustment and ancillary fitments, such as cot sides and buffering devices are not included.

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

2 Materials

The framework of the bedstead shall be made of steel tubing complying with the requirements for grade ERW 5 of BS 6323-5.

3 Surface finish

3.1 Durability

The surface finish of the bedstead shall comply with the requirements specified in Table 1 when tested in accordance with the methods of test listed therein.

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 bedstead.

3.2 Toxicity

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

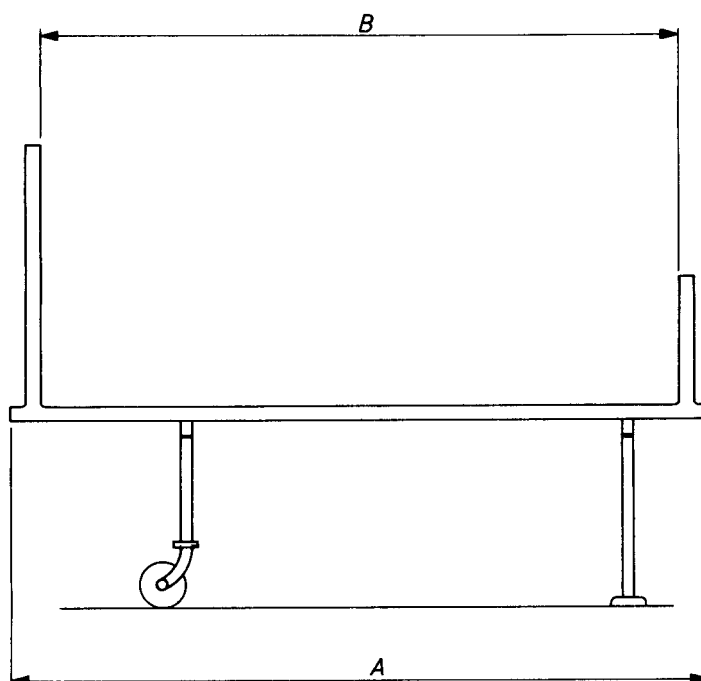
4 Dimensions

The overall length of the bedstead, shown as dimension *A* in Figure 1, shall be not greater than 2 234 mm, including buffers if present.

The length of the clear space, shown as dimension *B* in Figure 1, above the mattress support panel, between the headend and footend structures shall be within the range 2 010 mm to 2 060 mm.

The width of the mattress support panel shall be not less than 865 mm and the overall width of the bedstead shall be not more than 1 075 mm, including buffers if present.

NOTE The preferred height of the mattress support panel above the floor level is 450 ± 5 mm (see Appendix B).



NOTE This figure illustrates the designation of dimensions; it does not purport to specify design and does not otherwise form part of the specification.

Figure 1 — Designation of dimensions of bedstead