

Specification for

Woven and knitted fabrics for upholstery

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Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by Technical Committee TCI/6, Upholstery fabrics, to Subcommittee TCI/6/1, Stretch covers, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- Association of Consulting Scientists
- Association of Master Upholsterers
- British Furniture Manufacturers' Federation
- British Interior Textiles Association
- British Retail Consortium
- British Shops and Stores Association (BSSA)
- British Textile Confederation
- Confederation of British Wool Textiles Limited
- Consumer Policy Committee of BSI
- Department of Trade and Industry (Consumer Safety Unit, CA Division)
- Furnishing Design Association
- Furniture Industry Research Association
- International Wool Secretariat
- Local Authority Organizations
- Mail Order Traders' Association
- National Bed Federation Limited
- National Wool Textile Export Corporation
- Scottish Textile and Technical Centre Ltd.
- Standards Qualitas Furnishing
- Textile Finishers' Association
- Textile Research Council (FCRA)

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Foreword

This British Standard has been prepared by Subcommittee TCI/6/1, Stretch covers. It is a new edition of BS 2543:1991 which is withdrawn.

This edition introduces technical changes but it does not reflect a full review or revision of the standard, which will be undertaken in due course.

Changes from the previous edition have been made, in the light of current technological developments, including slight alterations to the grading system and modifications to the requirements for certain fabrics.

Following publication of BS 3320:1988, comments have been received that the method was unsatisfactory and not suitable for the testing of upholstery fabrics.

A modification of the test method has therefore been specified, which is considered to be more appropriate to the types of fabric generally used for furnishing.

Although fabrics with long floating yarns, i.e. dobby and jacquard fabrics are completely acceptable as general or light domestic grades the abrasion test requirements in the previous edition of the standard have been found to be too stringent for them. Reduced performance requirements have therefore been assigned to these fabric types. Experience with the scuffing test has shown that the use of a latex foam backing resulted in a wide contact area giving a low contact force. The severity of the test has been increased by reverting to a flat hard surface using an abradant fabric.

The suitability of knitted fabrics for seaming, sewing or buttoning is not determined in this standard because there is no currently accepted method for assessing these properties. Also excluded from this standard are fabrics with a nominal pile length of 5 mm or more, because they cannot satisfactorily be tested for abrasion in accordance with BS 5690.

Attention is drawn to BS 4723 which specifies stretch covers for upholstered furniture, to BS 5790-1 and BS 5790-2 which specify requirements for PVC coated fabrics for upholstery and to BS 6608 which specifies cattle hide leathers for upholstered furniture.

Annex A gives a method for determining seam slippage, Annex B gives a method for abrasion resistance, Annex C gives a method for measuring pile loss due to abrasion against underlying fillings, Annex D gives a method of measuring the resistance to scuffing of flocked-pile fabrics, and Annex E gives a method for measuring the colour fastness to water.

Guidelines for assessing and reporting the results of tests for resistance to abrasion are given in Annex F and Annex G gives guidance for furniture designers in the selection of fabric grades for upholstery for domestic use.

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. In particular, attention is drawn to Statutory Instrument 1986 No. 26, Trade Descriptions The Textile Products (Indications of Fibre Content) Regulations 1986 [1], to Statutory Instrument 1988 No. 1324 The Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988 [2] and to Statutory Instrument 1989 No. 2358 The Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) (Amendment) Regulations 1989 [3].

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 12, 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 five grades of woven and knitted covering fabrics for domestic and contract upholstery, and additional requirements for fabrics for removable, cleanable, external decorative covers fitted or intended to be fitted by the upholsterer.

This standard excludes plastics coated fabrics where the coating is the wear surface, fabrics intended solely for loose covers¹⁾, leather, fabrics for transport applications and fabrics with a nominal pile length of 5 mm or more.

2 References

2.1 Normative references

This British Standard incorporates, by reference, provisions from specific editions of other publications. These normative references are cited at the appropriate points in the text and the publications are listed on page 12. Subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications apply to this British Standard only when incorporated in it by updating or revision.

2.2 Informative references

This British Standard refers to other publications that provide information or guidance. Editions of these publications current at the time of issue of this standard are listed on page 12, but reference should be made to the latest editions.

3 Definitions

For the purposes of this British Standard the definitions given in BS 6189 apply together with the following:

3.1

batch

a definite quantity of some commodity manufactured or produced under conditions that are presumed uniform

3.2

figured fabric

a fabric in which patterns or motifs are produced by a combination of distinct weaves, requiring a dobby or jacquard mechanism

3.3

flocked fabric

a fabric in which the pile is formed by applying short chopped lengths of fibre (flock) to a backing fabric coated with adhesive

NOTE The application of fibre is usually carried out electrostatically.

3.4

pile length

the length of one leg of a tuft or loop from the point where it emerges from the substrate to its extremity

NOTE A method for estimating pile length is given in Annex A of BS 4223:1989.

3.5

thread

a textile yarn, either single or resulting from twisting together two or more single or folded yarns

4 Grading designation

Fabrics shall be graded by an abbreviated technical description (see Table 1 to Table 4) containing the following:

a) a group of two letters, to indicate the suitable end-use;²⁾

OD occasional domestic;

LD light domestic;

GD general domestic;

SD severe domestic or general contract;

SC severe contract.

b) an oblique stroke;

c) in the case of woven flat fabrics for light domestic (LD) and general domestic (GD) end-uses only, a letter, O or F, to indicate the weave construction as follows:

O fabrics other than figured;

F figured fabrics (see 3.2).

Example: GD/F indicates that the fabric is intended for general domestic use and is a figured fabric.

¹⁾ See BS 4723 for stretch covers.

²⁾ See Annex G for guidance note for designers.

5 Performance

Fabrics shall conform to the appropriate requirements given in Table 1 to Table 4 when tested in accordance with the relevant methods of test.

Fabrics shall conform to Table 5.

Where a fabric is intended to be used as a removable, cleanable, decorative cover, fitted by the upholsterer, and if it is intended to be washable or dry cleanable, it shall additionally conform to the appropriate requirements given in Table 6.

6 Sampling

A sample shall be taken, of sufficient size to provide the required number of test specimens, either from each finishing batch if less than 5 000 m or from at least every 5 000 m.

7 Marking

Fabrics shall be supplied with the following information, e.g. on a label or swing ticket:

- a) the number and date of this British Standard, i.e. BS 2543:1995³⁾;
- b) the manufacturer’s name, trademark or other means of identification;
- c) the grade and suitable end-use of the fabric as given in clause 4;
- d) for fabrics suitable for the production of removable primary covers, instructions or any precautions to be taken concerning care, including cleaning, of the cover to be made from the fabric, using an appropriate care labelling symbol in accordance with BS EN 23758. If the fabric is unsuitable for cleaning, this shall be indicated.

Table 1 — Flat woven fabrics

Grade	Breaking strength (minimum for warp and weft)	Tear strength (minimum for warp and weft)	Seam slippage (maximum, measured after reduction of force to 5 N)	Visible soiling (maximum rating)	Abrasion resistance ^a	
					Minimum cycles to physically significant end point	Minimum cycles to change in colour not lower than grade 3 or complete loss of surface texture effect
	N	N	mm			
OD	300	15	6	3	6 000	—
LD/O	350	15	6	3	15 000	6 000
LD/F	350	15	6	3	12 000	6 000
GD/O	350	20	6	3	20 000	6 000
GD/F	350	20	6	3	15 000	6 000
SD	400	20	6	3 to 4	30 000	10 000
SC	400	25	6	3 to 4	40 000	10 000
Method of test	BS 2576	BS 4303 ^b	Annex A	BS 4948	B.1 and B.2	BS 5690
^a See Annex F for guidelines for assessing and reporting test results.						
^b Median peak result.						

³⁾ Marking BS 2543:1995 on or in relation to a product represents a manufacturer’s declaration of conformity, i.e. claim by or on behalf of the manufacturer that the product meets the requirements of the standard. The accuracy of the claim is therefore solely the responsibility of the person making the claim. Such a declaration is not to be confused with third party certification of conformity, which may also be desirable.