

CONFIRMED
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Examination and general treatment couches —

Part 1: Specification for fixed height couches

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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:

- Associated Offices Technical Committee
- Association of British Paediatric Nurses
- Association of National Health Service Supplies Officers
- British Paediatric Association
- British Surgical Trades Association Incorporated
- Chartered Society of Physiotherapy
- Department of Health and Social Security
- Health Service Supply Council
- Independent Engineering Insurers' Committee
- King Edward's Hospital Fund for London
- Royal College of Midwives
- Royal College of Nursing and National Council for the Nurses of the United Kingdom
- Stainless Steel Fabricators' Association of Great Britain

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Health Care Standards Committee, was published under the authority of the Board of BSI and comes into effect on 30 November 1988

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Foreword

This Part of BS 2838 has been prepared under the direction of the Health Care Standards Committee. It supersedes BS 2838:1972 which is withdrawn.

BS 2838 was originally published in 1957 following a request by the Hospitals Standards Advisory Committee. The first revision, which was completed in 1972, introduced performance requirements to support the design criteria that had been specified earlier. In order to assess the performance of products, tests were designed so that the applied loads and forces induced stresses in the main members and joints that exceeded those to be expected in common use. Products complying with these performance requirements have been found to be generally satisfactory but, in preparing this revision it was considered necessary to make a number of amendments both to the requirements and to the test methods.

Principally these are:

- a) the introduction of a test for the ignitability of the upholstery;
- b) the introduction of chipboard as a construction material;
- c) the introduction of tests for paint coatings applied to metal and wood components;
- d) the head section is now required to be adjustable through angles up to 65° from the horizontal.

Requirements are also specified for the following features which are included only when requested by the purchaser:

- 1) an adjustable body section, capable of adjustment up to 40° from the horizontal;
- 2) a mounting step for metal-framed couches;
- 3) a breathing hole in the head section of the couch.

Recommendations for the information to be provided by a purchaser to a manufacturer or supplier are given in Appendix A.

A product complying with this Part of BS 2838 is suitable for normal usage but not necessarily when a patient is to be subjected to short wave diathermy or other high frequency electrical treatment. The purchaser should advise the supplier if the couch is likely to be used in connection with this treatment so that any necessary modifications can be included in the design (see clause 1 and Appendix A).

This Part of BS 2838 calls for the use of substances and/or procedures that may be injurious to health if adequate precautions are not taken. The standard 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 the ignitability of the upholstery of the couch. 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 the inhalation of smoke and toxic products of combustion.

Product certification. Users of this Part of this British Standard are advised to consider the desirability of third party certification of 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 BS 5750-2. (A guide to the use of BS 5750-2 is given in BS 5750-5.)

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.

During the preparation of this revision it was decided that, in addition to a specification for fixed height couches, there was a need for a specification for couches of variable height. Such a specification, to be published as BS 2838-2, is in preparation.

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 to iv, 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.

