

Specification for

Venetian blinds

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Committees responsible for this British Standard

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- British Blind and Shutter Association
- Consumer Standards Advisory Committee of BSI
- Cordage Manufacturers' Institute
- Crown Suppliers
- Design Council
- LAMSAC

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Foreword

This revision of BS 3415 has been prepared under the direction of the Furniture and Household Equipment Standards Committee at the request of manufacturers and purchasing organizations. It supersedes BS 3415:1961 which is withdrawn.

This edition, like that published in 1961, is concerned only with blinds for use under normal atmospheric conditions. This revision contains more stringent requirements for the safety, strength and general performance of venetian blinds than the 1961 edition and all dimensions are now given in metric units in the standard. However, since window blinds are normally sold to domestic households as “made to measure” items, manufacturers’ quoted dimensions may be given in imperial units to accord with the general understanding of the adult population.

The tests applied to a blind simulate, as nearly as possible, the general performance necessary for it to give satisfactory service under normal conditions of use. For blinds differing significantly from the dimensions of the test blind it is recommended that specific testing for mechanical performance be carried out on a representative blind of approximately the same size as that under consideration.

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.

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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 the materials, construction, performance, marking and instructions for the installation and use of venetian blinds with flexible horizontal slats, adjustable to various angles, and having the raising, lowering, and tilting operations controlled by cords, tapes or rods, either separately or combined into one action.

The tests in this standard are type tests.

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

2 Definitions

NOTE Terms used to describe the basic component parts of venetian blinds covered by this British Standard are given in, and illustrated by, Figure 1.

For the purposes of this British Standard the following definitions apply.

2.1

overall width

the full width of the head rail, including end-caps and/or fixing brackets

2.2

overall drop

the distance from the top of the headrail fixing brackets to the lowest point of the bottom rail of a fully extended blind with the slats in the fully closed position

2.3

nominal drop

the distance from the top of the headrail fixing brackets to the lowest point of the bottom rail of a fully extended blind with the slats in the horizontal, fully open, position

2.4

control action

any of the means by which slats are tilted from the horizontal to the vertical plane and by which a blind is moved between raised and lowered positions

2.5

combined control

a feature of the operation of a venetian blind whereby the control actions are performed using a single operating device

2.6

separate control

a feature of the operation of a venetian blind whereby the control actions are performed by separate operating devices

2.7

ladder tape

webbing or braid, attached to the mechanism within the headrail, providing support for individual slats of a venetian blind on fine cross ladders: when the tilt control is operated, one vertical element of the ladder tape rises and one falls causing the slats to move between the open and closed positions

3 Materials and construction

3.1 General. The materials used to manufacture a venetian blind shall be free from visible defects which will appear on the outside surfaces of the assembled blind, e.g. dents, scratches, etc.

NOTE Blemishes which do not mar the overall appearance of the finished blind are permissible.

All materials visible in a mounted blind, in their finished condition, shall withstand, without detriment to their appearance, the corrosion test described in Appendix K of BS 1224:1970 at 24 h duration and shall have a fastness to light not less than standard 6 when tested in accordance with section B02 of BS 1006:1978 using the xenon arc fading test.

3.2 Headrail. The headrail shall be of material of sufficient strength and thickness to support the completed blind when mounted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions (see 5.2), without visible sagging or twisting. Unless specifically intended for installation within a recess or box, the ends of the headrail shall be closed off by end caps or end fixing brackets.

The headrail shall not deviate from the horizontal by more than ± 5 mm when the blind is mounted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions beneath a plane surface, and no part of the operating mechanism, within the headrail, shall make contact with that surface.

All fittings within the headrail shall be secured such that components shall not become dislodged under the conditions of use of the blind specified in 4.2 and 4.3.

NOTE Fittings may be protected by a dust cover where an open side of the headrail is not intended to butt closely to a fixing area. Any such cover should provide maximum dust exclusion consistent with the free movement of operating mechanisms and should be secured to the headrail.

3.3 Fixing brackets. Blinds shall be supplied with fixing brackets able to support the blind and retain it securely under the conditions of use specified in 4.2 and 4.3. It shall be possible to remove the headrail from the brackets when they are fixed.