

Specification for

Fabrics for curtains and drapes —

Part 2: Flammability requirements

UDC [677.07:645.312]:536.468

Cooperating organizations

The Fibres, Yarns and Fabrics Standards Committee, under whose direction this British Standard was prepared, consists of representatives from the following Government departments and scientific and industrial organizations:

- Association of Jute Spinners and Manufacturers
- British Man-made Fibres Federation*
- British Nonwoven Manufacturers' Association
- British Railways Board
- British Textile Employers' Association*
- Central Council of the Irish Linen Industry*
- Consumer Standards Advisory Committee of BSI*
- Department of Industry (Chemicals and Textiles)
- Institute of Purchasing and Supply
- International Wool Secretariat*
- Knitting Industries Federation Limited*
- Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ticking Suppliers' Committee
- Ministry of Defence
- Narrow Fabrics Federation
- Retail Trading-Standards Association Incorporated*
- Textile Institute
- Warp Knitters' Association Limited*

The organizations marked with an asterisk in the above list, together with the following, were directly represented on the committee entrusted with the preparation of this British Standard:

- Association of Master Upholsterers
- British Blind and Shutter Association
- British Furniture Manufacturers' Federated Associations
- Chemical Industries Association
- Department of Health and Social Security
- Department of the Environment (PSA)
- Department of Trade
- Furniture Industry Research Association
- Home Office
- Furnishing Fabrics Association
- Manchester Chamber of Commerce Testing House and Laboratories
- National Association of Retail Furnishers
- Textile Research Council

Amendments issued since publication

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Contents

	Page
Cooperating organizations	Inside front cover
Foreword	ii
1 Scope	1
2 References	1
3 Sampling	1
4 Durability	1
5 Test procedures and requirements	1
6 Identification	3
Appendix A Additional procedures for use with BS 5438	4
Publications referred to	Inside back cover

Foreword

This Part of this British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Fibres, Yarns and Fabrics Standards Committee, was amended under the direction of the Furniture and Household Equipment Standards Committee. A separate British Standard is being prepared dealing with making up requirements for curtains and drapes.

While a consumer is likely to be interested primarily in such properties as colour fastness and dimensional stability, fire safety advisers may be interested primarily in the flammability aspects of a product. For this reason, the standard is divided into two Parts:

- *Part 1: General requirements;*
- *Part 2: Flammability requirements.*

Either Part may be used individually or both Parts may be used together, though it is stressed that a fabric complying only with the requirements of Part 2 may not be satisfactory for use as a curtain fabric.

In the past, flammability requirements of textiles have been based to a large extent on BS 3120. New methods of test for the flammability of textiles have been published recently in BS 5438. The two previous standards giving test procedures for flammability, i.e. BS 2963 and BS 3119, and the two performance specifications, BS 3120 and BS 3121, will be withdrawn in due course.

The committee responsible for the publication of BS 5438 has strongly indicated that general performance specifications (as given in BS 3120 and BS 3121) are not appropriate and may possibly be misleading and should not be prepared. Instead of such specifications, it has recommended that individual performance specifications for defined end uses be produced. For that reason, this standard is limited in application to fabric and fabric assemblies for use in curtains and drapes.

The use of different fabrics to produce a multi-layer assembly can transform a safer structure into a hazardous one. It is therefore important to test such assemblies in the same combination as that in which they will be used.

Attention is drawn to the following statement which is required by BS 5438 to be an item of the test report: "The results may not apply to situations where there is restricted air supply or prolonged exposure to large sources of intense heat as in a conflagration". This statement should be borne in mind when use is made of the present standard. A fabric complying with the requirements of the present standard may not always withstand exposure to large sources of heat, but it should have some resistance to flame spread following accidental contact with small sources of ignition.

The flammability requirements given in this Part of this British Standard have been selected after careful consideration of the statistical information concerning hazard to life in those incidents where curtains and drapes have been identified as the material first ignited.

Three sets of performance requirements have been included so that the most appropriate one can be selected for a specific end use; for example, the requirements given in 5.3 are invoked by the Department of Health and Social Security.

The attention of users of this Part of this British Standard is drawn to the fact that studies carried out by the Department of the Environment Fire Research Station have indicated that small scale laboratory tests are not considered to be fully adequate in assessing the resistance of curtains to a range of ignition sources. They can, however, provide useful information as screening tests. Flammability standards of the Department of the Environment (PSA) Supplies require curtains to be tested in accordance with Department of the Environment Fire Retardant Specification No 7, Ignition Standard for Curtains.