

Domestic and contract furniture —

Part 3: Specification for performance requirements for cabinet furniture

Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by the Consumer and Contract Goods Standards Policy Committee (CCM/-) to Technical Committee CCM/3, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- British Furniture Manufacturers' Federation
- British Plastics Federation
- British Retailers' Association
- British Shops and Stores Association (BSSA)
- Castor Manufacturers' (UK) Association
- Chartered Society of Designers
- Consumer Policy Committee of BSI
- Department of Trade and Industry (Consumer Safety Unit, CA Division)
- Flat Glass Manufacturers' Association
- Furniture Industry Research Association
- Furniture, Timber and Allied Trades Union
- Glass and Glazing Federation
- Institute of Trading Standards Administration
- International Wool Secretariat
- Leisure and Outdoor Furniture Association Limited
- Mail Order Traders' Association
- Paintmakers' Association of Great Britain Ltd.
- Retail Consortium

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Foreword

This Part of BS 6250 has been prepared under the direction of the Consumer and Contract Goods Standards Policy Committee and is part of a comprehensive specification for domestic and contract furniture. It is a revision of BS 6250-3:1983, which is withdrawn.

Cabinet furniture complying with this Part of BS 6250 can be expected to give satisfactory service within the type of duty for which it is intended. The type of duty is expressed by reference to a combination of the performance of the carcass and of the surface finish. This distinction between the carcass and the surface finish is to enable, for example, a heavy duty carcass to be given a careful use surface finish where it is envisaged that the surface finish will be lightly and carefully used or where refinishing during the life of the item is acceptable. Alternatively, a light duty carcass may be given a severe use surface finish where considerable abuse of the surface finish is anticipated.

With some exceptions, British Standards for the materials used in the structure of furniture are quoted for guidance only, since complying with the performance requirements of this standard is in general considered to be sufficient assurance that the materials as well as the construction are adequately serviceable. Guidance on the characteristics and usage of common structural materials is given in Appendix D.

A British Standard specifying requirements for the inclusion of glass in the construction of storage furniture, shelving systems, wall hung or free standing mirrors and mirrors in furniture is in preparation. When it is published, a requirement that items of cabinet furniture shall comply with it will be inserted in this standard by amendment.

There are many British Standards relating to furniture and furnishing materials besides those called up in this standard. For these, reference should be made to the BSI Catalogue, obtainable from the BSI Sales Department. BS 1195, BS 1877, BS 5873 and BS 5940 may be of particular interest.

Other Parts of this standard are as follows.

- *Part 1: Specification for performance requirements for seating;*
- *Part 2: Specification for performance requirements for tables and trolleys;*
- *Part 4: Guide to the provision of information.*

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 10, 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 Part of BS 6250 specifies performance requirements for domestic and contract cabinet furniture.

This standard is based on performance requirements and does not refer to design or ergonomic considerations in order to afford the maximum freedom in design and manufacture.

The standard is applicable to domestic and contract cabinet furniture, including freestanding kitchen furniture. It does not cover specific requirements for nursery, school or office cabinet furniture or built-in kitchen furniture intended for permanent attachment to the structure of the building. The standard is not applicable to outdoor furniture as requirements for weathering are not included.

NOTE 1 Guidance on the selection and use of materials is given in Appendix D.

NOTE 2 The titles of the publications referred to in this standard are listed on page 10.

2 Definitions

For the purposes of this Part of BS 6250 the following definitions apply.

2.1

surface finish

the external wear surface of furniture, including:

- a) paint or lacquer applied to wood, woodbased sheet materials or other substrates;
- b) polyvinyl chloride (PVC), paper foil or plastics laminate;
- c) material with an integral finish.

2.2

rigid edging

rigid edging materials supplied in strip form, such as solid wood lippings and high pressure plastics laminate

2.3

flexible edging

flexible edging materials supplied in continuous lengths, such as resinated paper and PVC foil

3 Classification

3.1 General

An item of cabinet furniture is classified according to its suitability for domestic or contract use in terms of its carcass strength and its surface finish.

NOTE A single item of furniture may have different classifications for different aspects. For example:

- a) a free-standing domestic kitchen cabinet may have a carcass suitable for general domestic use and a surface finish suitable for heavy use;
- b) a hotel writing room desk may have a carcass suitable for light contract use and a surface finish suitable for heavy use.

Guidance for users on the choice of suitable grades is given in Appendix A.

3.2 Carcase strength

The carcass strength of an item of cabinet furniture shall be classified according to its use category as given in Table 1.

NOTE Classifications are given in Table 1 for both domestic and contract use. Thus, cabinet furniture complying with performance rating 3 of BS 4875-7 may be described as suitable either for general domestic use or for light contract use.

3.3 Surface finish

The surface finish of an item of cabinet furniture shall be classified according to its use category as given in Table 2.

Table 1 — Classification of use categories for strength of carcass

Strength performance rating in accordance with BS 4875-7	Use category		Examples
	Domestic	Contract	
1	Occasional	—	Cabinets intended only for very careful use
2	Light	—	Bedroom or sitting room light storage
3	General	Light	Domestic crockery and grocery storage, domestic dining/living room cabinets/bookshelves, hotel and other contract bedroom
4	Heavy	General	Cabinets where rough treatment and careless handling occur, e.g. in college studies, hotel receptions and hotel dining rooms
5		Heavy	Cabinets intended for exceptionally severe use e.g. in termini, student common rooms and barrack rooms