

Method for

Evaluating the application of and interaction between components in upholstered furniture

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- British Furniture Manufacturers' Federated Associations
- British Plastics Federation
- British Rubber Manufacturers' Association*
- Business Equipment Trade Association*
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- Department of the Environment Building Research Establishment (Fire Research Station)
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- Office Machines and Equipment Federation
- Rubber and Plastics Research Association of Great Britain
- Textile Research Council
- Timber Research and Development Association

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

- Consumers' Association
- Mail Order Traders' Association of Great Britain

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Furniture Standards Committee, was published under the authority of the Board of BSI and comes into effect on 30 June 1982

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Foreword

This British Standard has been prepared under the direction of the Furniture Standards Committee, and was originally published as DD 46:1976 “*Method of test for evaluating the performance of upholstered furniture*”. Subsequent evaluation has shown that the Draft for Development can be converted into a British Standard, with only a few modifications. DD 46:1976 is therefore withdrawn.

This method is complementary to the tests (e.g. BS 2576, BS 3424 and BS 4875) which are used to assess the suitability of individual components, materials and structure in furniture. Prior use should be made of those appropriate standards to ensure that the individual components are satisfactory before the assembly is evaluated by the method described in this standard.

After assembly faults may become apparent in service that are due to the method of application of components or to interactions between them. For example, a particular configuration may place a high stress on a seam, a cut made for convenience in fitting a cover may act as a stress raiser, buttoning faults may occur, or foam may be cut or abraded by the underlying support. It is the purpose of the method given in this standard to search out such faults in the laboratory, usually on a prototype, so that expensive returns can be minimized.

More simple forms of repeat loading tests do not indicate faults effectively, and it has therefore been assumed that it is the many and varied movements of users that give rise to the damage. Consequently, the approach has been to analyse user movements and, from the theoretical consideration of the data gathered from the observation of movements and measurement of forces applied by users of upholstered furniture, draw up the test procedure. Those users’ movements assessed as being possibly damaging have been reproduced as accurately as possible by machine.

The effectiveness of the method in demonstrating interaction faults and changes in appearance due to use have been practically proven. The method has also proved extremely valuable in the in situ evaluation of the physical properties of fire barrier materials placed between an outer upholstery cover and a filling as a means of complying with The Upholstered Furniture (Safety) Regulations 1980.

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Summary of pages

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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.