

Specification for

Electrical systems in office furniture and office screens

Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted to Technical Committee CCM/4, Office furniture, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- Association of Consulting Scientists
- British Coatings Federation Ltd.
- British Contract Furnishing Association
- British Educational Suppliers' Association
- British Office Systems and Stationery Federation
- British Telecommunications plc
- Castor Manufacturers' (UK) Association
- Department of Social Security (Benefits Agency)
- Electrical Installation Equipment Manufacturers' Association (BEAMA Ltd.)
- Furniture Industry Research Association
- Health and Safety Executive
- Institute of Administrative Management
- Institute of Facilities Management
- Office Furniture and Filing Manufacturers' Association (OFFMA)
- Post Office

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Foreword

This British Standard has been prepared by Technical Committee CCM/4. It supersedes BS 6396:1990, which is withdrawn.

This new edition introduces technical changes but it does not reflect a full review or revision of the standard, which will be undertaken in due course.

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. In particular, attention is drawn to Section 6 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974¹⁾.

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⁾ Attention is also drawn to the guidance in the Health and Safety Commission publications Guidance notes GS8: Articles and substances for use at work, guidance for designers, manufacturers, importers, suppliers, erectors and installers, available from HMSO.

1 Scope

This British Standard specifies requirements for the safe provision or installation of electrical power, data and telecommunications distribution systems in office furniture and office screens. Requirements are specified for furniture for general use and for furniture for use with specific equipment, parts of which may be built in during manufacture.

Appropriate tests are described for the installed power distribution system in the furniture. The standard applies to single-phase electrical power distribution systems operating at rated voltages up to 250 V a.c. that are connected to the fixed wiring of the permanent installation of the building by a 13 A fused plug and socket arrangement. The standard makes provision for the routing of cables through the furniture.

NOTE This standard does not apply to electrical appliances used with or within an article of office furniture, to which appropriate standards should then apply. The standard does not apply to power distribution systems that are permanently connected to the building installation.

2 References

2.1 Normative references

This British Standard incorporates, by dated or undated reference, provisions from other publications. These normative references are made at the appropriate places in the text and the cited publications are listed on the inside back cover. For dated references, only the edition cited applies; any subsequent amendments to, or revisions of the cited publication apply to this British Standard only when incorporated in the reference by amendment or revision. For undated references, the latest edition of the cited publication applies, together with any amendments.

2.2 Informative references

This British Standard refers to other publications that provide information or guidance. Editions of these publications current at the time of issue of this standard are listed on the inside back cover but reference should be made to the latest editions.

3 Definitions

For the purposes of this British Standard, the definitions given in BS 4727 apply together with the following.

3.1 appliance coupler²⁾

a means of enabling the connection and disconnection at will of a flexible cable or cord to an appliance or other equipment. It consists of two parts:

- a) a connector, which is the part integral with, or intended to be attached to, the flexible cable or cord connected to the supply;
- b) an appliance inlet, which is the part integrated in or incorporated in the appliance or equipment, or intended to be fixed to it.

3.2 basic insulation³⁾

insulation to provide basic protection against electric shock

3.3 supplementary insulation³⁾

independent insulation applied in addition to basic insulation in order to ensure protection against electric shock in the event of a failure of the basic insulation

3.4 double insulation³⁾

insulation comprising both basic insulation and supplementary insulation

3.5 reinforced insulation⁴⁾

a single insulation system which provides a degree of protection against electric shock equivalent to double insulation under the conditions specified in BS EN 60950

NOTE The term “insulation system” does not imply that the insulation has to be one homogenous piece. It may comprise several layers which cannot be tested as supplementary or basic insulation.

3.6 building's electrical installation

the electrical installation of the building comprising the fixed wiring and fixed equipment

²⁾ Repeated from BS 4491-1:1989.

³⁾ Repeated from BS EN 60950:1992.

⁴⁾ Modified from BS EN 60950:1992.