

# Specification for Cookware

UDC [641.5.06 + 641.534.2 + 641.535.2]:.002.2:.004.15

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# Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by the Furniture and Household Equipment Standards Committee (FHM/-) to Technical Committee FHM/9, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- British Cookware Manufacturer’s Association
- British Hardware Federation
- British Retailers’ Association
- Catering Equipment Manufacturers’ Association
- Co-operative Union
- Consumer Policy Committee of BSI
- Crown Suppliers
- Department of Education and Science
- Department of Health and Social Security
- Department of Trade and Industry (Consumer Safety Unit, CA Division)
- Glass Manufacturers’ Federation
- Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd.
- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
- Paintmakers Association of Great Britain Ltd.
- RAPRA Technology Ltd.
- Small Electrical Appliances Marketing Association
- United Kingdom Home Economics Federation
- Vitreous Enamel Development Council

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Furniture and Household Equipment Standards Committee, was published under the authority of the Board of BSI and comes into effect on 30 September 1988

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The following BSI references relate to the work on this standard:  
Committee reference FHM/9  
Draft for comment 87/43112 DC

ISBN 0 580 16844 1

## Amendments issued since publication

| Amd. No. | Date of issue | Comments |
|----------|---------------|----------|
|          |               |          |
|          |               |          |
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## Foreword

This British Standard has been prepared under the direction of the Furniture and Household Equipment Standards Committee and is a combined revision of British Standards 1859, 4083, 4861 and 5206 which are withdrawn.

The preparation of BS 6743 in response to accident statistics concerning domestic and institutional cookware created the need to incorporate the safety requirements developed for that standard into a revision of the standards for cookware. In conjunction with this the opportunity has been taken to include requirements for non-stick coatings, previously specified independently.

This standard is not specific to aluminium products and the requirements given are considered appropriate to any item of cookware irrespective of method or material(s) of manufacture. No requirements are given for dimensions or capacities of cookware although the capacity of an item must be indicated.

The requirements are intended to apply to all items of cookware heated externally by flame, ring or hotplate on the top of a stove, cooker or hob. For use on a cast hotplate or ceramic hotplate it is essential that the base of the cookware remains flat to ensure maintenance of a good surface contact, and accordingly requirements for the flatness of the base for cookware are given in this standard. It should be noted that certain specific requirements, not addressed in this standard, may be necessary for the satisfactory performance of cookware with some types of heating processes based on recently introduced technologies such as induction and halogen hobs. The former requires “ferritic” materials to be used in the construction of the cookware and the latter requires a matt, and preferably darkened, external base area to cookware.

The efficiency of externally heated cookware in transmitting heat to the contents depends on several factors which are independent of the cookware itself and it was considered that an efficiency test in respect of this would be unrealistic and might even be misleading.

The testing and permissible limits for the release of specific metals from cookware surfaces in use are the subject of investigation and will form the basis of a separate British Standard concerned with metal release from surfaces in contact with food.

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 the existence of specific legislation with which cookware used for the preparation of food or beverages is required to comply.**

### 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 construction and performance requirements for items of domestic and institutional cookware of gross capacity not exceeding 10 L for use on the top of a stove, cooker or hob and applies to all cookware regardless of material or method of manufacture.

The standard does not contain any requirements for items specifically intended for use within the oven, for products for use in microwave ovens, or for any item of cookware intended for, or capable of, operation at greater than atmospheric pressure; the requirements for pressure cookers are given in BS 1746. It does not apply to kettles, the requirements for which are given in BS 6557.

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

## 2 Definitions

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

### 2.1 cookware

a utensil, in the form of a hollow container, intended for use in the preparation and/or cooking of food or beverages on the top of a stove, cooker or hob

NOTE The requirements of this standard do not apply to cookware in the form of kettles or pressure cookers.

### 2.2 cookware body

that part of an item of cookware intended to retain the contents during use and including the base, side(s), lid and any movable or removable sections

### 2.3 gross capacity

the capacity obtained when the cookware body is filled to the brim with water at  $15 \pm 2$  °C and allowed to level off for one minute whilst standing on a level surface

### 2.4 usable capacity

the quantity of liquid contents which may be safely held by an item of cookware in normal use

### 2.5 non-stick surface

a surface, usually applied as a coating to the interior of an item of cookware, from which food prepared in the cookware is readily removable and which may be cleaned by washing without the need for scouring or scraping

## 3 Materials and construction

### 3.1 General

No specific requirements for material(s) of manufacture for cookware are given in this standard but any material used shall meet the appropriate requirements of this clause.

NOTE It is a legal requirement that cookware be made of materials of a type and purity that, under normal conditions of use, present no toxic hazards nor in any way affect the organoleptic qualities of food prepared in it.

### 3.2 Metals

Any tinning shall comply with BS 3788. All other plated metals used in the construction of cookware shall be resistant, without detriment to appearance or function, to the corrosion test of Appendix K of BS 1224:1970 at 24 h duration, or shall be rendered so resistant by appropriate surface treatment.

NOTE Dissimilar metals which are not an integral part of any coating should not be used in proximity where they may contact the contents of the cookware in normal use.

Any metal in the finished cookware shall be free from visible imperfections, splits and porosity. No defects shall have been made good by filling or patching.

### 3.3 Non-metals

Non-metal components and surface finishes, including any plastics non-stick surfaces, shall be free from sharp edges and defects visible to the naked eye.

Plastics components shall comply with the "TEST" requirements of **30.1** of BS 3456-3.19:1980, carried out at  $220 \pm 50$  °C.

Vitreous enamel surfaces shall comply with BS 3831.

### 3.4 Adhesion of finish

Vitreous enamel coatings when viewed by the unaided eye shall appear undamaged following impact at any point by a steel ball of mass  $43 \pm 1$  g falling freely from a height of 800 mm above the surface.

Anodized coatings shall be resistant to the voltage breakdown test of BS 6161-6:1984.

All other external coatings shall remain unremoved when tested by the method described in **A.2.3** to **A.2.6** both at room temperature and immediately following 15 min immersion in boiling water.

### 3.5 Body

The interior surface of an item of cookware shall be free from surface porosity and other small irregularities that could form a lodgement for food particles.

The internal radius of all corners shall be not less than 7 mm.