

Textiles and textile products — Burning behaviour — Curtains and drapes — Classification scheme

The European Standard EN 13773:2003 has the status of a
British Standard

ICS 13.220.40; 59.080.30; 97.160

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN 13773:2003.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee TCI/63, Burning behaviour of textiles.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

This standard references BS EN 1101:1996 and BS EN 13772:2003 for test methods. These three standards are closely related and must be read in conjunction for a full understanding of the test methods and classification.

Since publication a number of issues have been raised with regards to technical aspects of the standards. The UK committee is concerned that some of these issues could result in test results being challenged. The main concerns are:

- (a) Difficulties have been reported in calibrating the electric radiator as required by Clause 7 of BS EN 13772:2003. This creates a deviation from the method that needs to be declared in test reports issued by laboratories accredited to BS EN ISO/IEC 17025:2005.
- (b) The behaviour of some fabrics under test is such that they cannot be said to conform with the requirement in subclause 10.7 of BS EN 13772:2003 (“the specimen shall still be under radiation and remain so during the whole test”). This specifically has been found to apply to thermoplastic materials which melt away from the heat source and so can no longer be deemed to “... still be under radiation and remain so during the whole test”.
- (c) Subclause 4.1.1 of BS EN 13773:2003 modifies the test method BS EN 1101:1996 by introducing a series of shorter flame application times. The fire resistance chemistry of some fabrics is such that they can fail the test at a short flame application time but pass at a longer flame application time. Consequently the information given in the classification scheme can be misleading.
- (d) The cleansing procedure given in subclause 8.2 of BS EN 13772:2003 is not intended to demonstrate durability of the fire retardancy of the fabric. This leaves it uncertain whether fabrics would be “fit for purpose” for some applications.

The UK committee is asking the responsible European Committee for a review of BS EN 1101-1996, BS EN 13772:2003 and BS EN 13773:2003 to address these concerns. Until such time as this review takes place and the standards are amended, users are advised to treat test results with caution.

BS 5867-2:1980 remains current as a standard for testing curtains and drapes using a small ignition source.

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

This British Standard was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 19 February 2003

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ISBN 0 580 41288 1

Amendments issued since publication

Amd. No.	Date	Comments
17156	29 June 2007	National foreword amended