

<b>Committee Reference:</b>	FW/002
<b>Committee Name:</b>	Domestic and Contract Furniture
<b>Committee Type:</b>	British
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> November 2017
<b>Meeting Location:</b>	FIRA International, UK
<b>Report Author:</b>	Suzie Radcliffe-Hart
<b>Status at Meeting</b>	Participant
<b>Report Date:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> November 2017

## **STANDARDS COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **DELEGATE LIST**

Bryn Jones –BHTA  
 Geoff Bindley – SATRA  
 Gary Broom – British Furniture Manufacturers Association (BFM)  
 Steve Moore – BFM  
 Steve Hale - Seminar Components  
 George Young - Phoenix Mecano  
 Suzie Radcliffe- Hart - FIRA  
 Sarah Horsfield - BSI

Phil Reynolds (acting) Chairman - FIRA

Number of delegates 9

### **KEY DECISIONS TAKEN AT MEETING**

Committee members were asked to review the final draft for approval to publish of prCEN TR 17202 Furniture – General safety guidelines – Entrapment of fingers and vote accordingly. All votes should be submitted to the secretary before 21/11/2017

Secretary to approach representatives from HSE and Trading Standards to invite them to a further meeting to discuss specifically the application of the Machinery Directive and how, in light of updated guidance documents, this will be enforced in relation to motorized rise recline chairs.

Secretary to approach the committee IEC TC 61, or UK (electrical) mirror committee, in relation to liaison between FW/002 and relevant committee to participate in work on proposed EN

standard 60335-2-116 Household and similar electrical appliances – Safety - Particular requirements for furniture with electrically motorized parts.. George Young may possibly act as liaison.

Secretary to approach the Chairman of the medical device panel dealing with BS 8480: 2006 and ask for an update as to the development of this document.

### **KEY POINTS FOR FIRA MEMBERS**

With regards to BS 8747 in relation to rise recline furniture and the latest guidance document to the Machinery Directive, members may wish to raise any queries with the Association who may be able to table these should a meeting with HSE and Trading standards go ahead.

### **DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING**

Proposed dates for next meetings:

11<sup>th</sup> December dependent on the availability of representatives from HSE and Trading Standards being available.

Location(s) to be confirmed – Suggested at BSI offices

## **NOTES FROM MEETING**

### **Opening of meeting**

Meeting opened 10:30.

### **Roll call of delegates and apologies**

Roll call of delegates held and apologies confirmed. New members were welcomed and all members introduced themselves.

Constitution, membership and conflicts of interest were omitted

### **BS 8474: 2013**

Mr Reynolds gave some history of the development of this standard from the point of view of original committee members who participated in the last amendment in 2013, providing rationale for some of the changes made.

Initial take up of the standard was quite minimal as the requirements could not be met and only one mechanism available at that time could comply. Following revision in 2013, the standard has been taken on positively by a number of manufacturers & retailers both in the UK and Europe.

The corresponding medical device standard was not updated as part of the revision as members felt at that time that there was insufficient expertise to do so.

Mr Reynolds then asked members whether, given the new guidelines in the machinery directive which positively confirm motorized furniture as being in-scope, the standard now requires further revision to include previously considered requirements.

Members engaged in debate not only of whether to include testing in BS 8474 which would mirror some of the essential safety requirements within the Directive, but also in relation to the application of the Directive itself as some members believe that furniture units including kitchen furniture and rise recliner seating are not in fact machinery but domestic appliances therefore falling outside the scope.

Mr Hale advised that his company had historically viewed their components and products as falling within scope of the Directive.

Mrs Radcliffe-Hart suggested that these items could be seen as being in-scope of the Machinery Directive by using the definition of “household appliances” which is given in guidance to the Low Voltage Directive.

Queries were raised on whether the guidance document was circulated for comment to those within the industry, such as manufacturers, who worked with rise recline furniture. The Chairman advised that this would have been circulated prior to release.

Mr Broom raised a number of queries in relation to elements of the Directive which were felt impossible to meet without affecting the intended function and use of the end products.

Elements raised particularly included:

### 1.2.2. Control devices

*From each control position, the operator must be able to ensure that no-one is in the danger zones, or the control system must be designed and constructed in such a way that starting is prevented while someone is in the danger zone.*

*If neither of these possibilities is applicable, before the machinery starts, an acoustic and/or visual warning signal must be given. The exposed persons must have time to leave the danger zone or prevent the machinery starting up.*

Sections 1.3.8.1. *Moving transmission parts* and 1.3.8.2. *Moving parts involved in the process* were also highlighted in relation to specific wording that guard devices must be fitted / used.

Queries on appropriate labeling of the product and location of additional information including the CE mark were also raised.

It was suggested that guidance on the application of the Machinery to specific furniture items remains incomplete as there are certain essential requirements of the Directive that either do not or cannot be applied to domestic furniture such as rise recline chairs. It was further suggested that there is little clarity on who will enforce the Directive and a query was raised as to what their expectation would be.

It was advised that the Health & Safety Executive were responsible for enforcement within the UK and members requested that they be invited to attend a meeting to offer guidance on how they would apply or enforce the Directive to rise recline furniture and why these items were included in the Directive itself, suggesting that these questions should be posed directly to the HSE for their response.

It was decided that, before any further amendment is made to BS 8474, clarity on the application of the Machinery Directive should be obtained. The members were mindful that in its current format, BS 8474 is a well used document within the industry as a whole and any changes to this may render the standard unusable.

### **BS 8480: 2006**

As the corresponding medical device standard, this document was not updated as part of the revision as members felt at that time that there was insufficient expertise to do so. This document was referred back to a more specialized committee in BSI, but no further information has been received.

Mr Jones advised that the BHTS membership felt that they had been kept in the dark as to the development of this document and the Secretary suggested that the relevant medical devices panel would be contacted to reinvigorate this work. The Secretary also noted that the committee Chairman had recently changed.

### **New work item – suggested standard EN 60335-2-116**

As part of the discussion on specific testing which may be applicable to rise recline furniture, a proposed new part to the electrical standard EN 60335 was tabled. The proposal, 60335-2-116 specifically for furniture with motorized parts is intended to work in conjunction with part 1 of the same standard. Although the document 60335-2-116 was circulated prior to the meeting, part 1 of the document was not available.

The members were interested in participating in the work of this document and the Secretary suggested liaison between FW/002 and the relevant IEC committee (IEC TC 61) or the UK mirror committee dealing with this document. It was proposed that Mr Young or Mr Hale should be considered.

#### **Upcoming votes/comment documents:**

Committee members were asked to review the final draft for approval to publish of prCEN TR 17202 Furniture – General safety guidelines – Entrapment of fingers and vote accordingly.

The Chairman gave a brief synopsis of the document and its status as a CEN Technical Report highlighting its use by standards bodies in order to help reduce inconsistency of requirements within furniture standards.

Including both access zones and anthropometric data and references, the document may be considered of use to designers, specifiers or when used as part of a risk assessment and is written in the hazard based format in order to give clearer information on requirements and the rationales behind them.

The Chairman confirmed that at this stage only editorial comments may be made and that all votes should be submitted to the secretary before 21/11/2017

#### **Other business**

**None**

#### **Meeting closed**

Meeting was closed at 00:00 on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017