

Committee Reference: CEN TC207 WG1
Committee Name: Domestic furniture
Committee Type: European
Meeting Dates: 16 – 17 November 2017
Meeting Location: TÜV Rhineland, Nuremberg, Germany
Report Author: Phil Reynolds
Status at Meeting: UK expert
Report Date: 17 November 2017

STANDARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

DELEGATE LIST

Germany x 4 (including convenor and secretary)
CEN TC 207 x 1 (secretary)
United Kingdom x 2
Denmark x 1
Sweden x 1
Spain x 2
Italy x 2
Austria x 2
France x 2
Observers x 1

KEY DECISIONS TAKEN AT MEETING

- To undertake a workshop relating to the stability of TV furniture.
- To produce a best practice guide relating to furniture tipping (looking at design, information etc.).
- To collate information on all standards containing dimensions for furniture.

KEY POINTS FOR FIRA MEMBERS

The key points for members are:

- Additional work needed to refine storage stability test methods (particularly for TV furniture).
- Work will start again on revising EN 1725 (beds) now the International Standard ISO 19833 has been finalized.

DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

15 - 16 March 2018, LGA TUV Rhineland, Nuremberg, Germany

NOTES FROM MEETING

Agenda (N319)

The agenda was approved with a slight change to running order

Minutes and Actions from the last meeting (N309)

France did not fully agree with that the minutes of the last meeting fully reflected the meeting and asked for changes to be made:

- France did not totally support the initiative to produce a best practice guide reflecting the need for securing storage furniture;
- The minutes did not reflect the full reported issues with testing to EN 12521 Domestic tables;
- The minutes did not reflect the need to review the marking requirements and requirements for TV units contained within EN 14749 – this comment was withdrawn from France.
- France would like a slight change in the recording of the discussions on EN 1129.

Minutes were adopted with agreed changes.

CEN TC207 Issues

Fpr EN 1116 Kitchen furniture - Co-ordinating sizes for kitchen furniture and kitchen appliances – the process is complete. There are some comments but these cannot be dealt with within the committee. The document will be published in January 2018.

EN 1725 Domestic furniture - Beds and mattresses – Safety requirements and test methods – WG1 chose to focus on ISO/DIS 19833, *Furniture – Beds – Determination of strength and durability* document, before starting a revision of EN 1725. ISO is currently out for Formal Vote. Suggestion to discuss whether to split into requirements and test method standards. DE suggested whether there is a difference between contact and domestic beds.

A suggestion to split EN 1725 document into test methods and requirements (UK stated that if a test method standard this should be developed in CEN TC 207 WG9). There is a push to use the ISO document in its entirety and reference it somehow in an EN standard.

FR want to have a separate EN standard for test methods as they have technical issues with the ISO standard.

It was agreed (FR objected) that EN 1725 will be revised and reference ISO 19833.

UK requested that the title and scope of the standard is modified to include contract requirements. This was generally agreed and WG5 will be consulted.

EN 12521 Domestic Tables – France are requesting an amendment. They have issues with the tests for tables where the top is not attached to the legs and also the vertical static load test for large tables where two vertical loads are used.

In particular they would like an amendment to either remove the vertical static load for large tables or change the requirements.

It was agreed that the addition of a new test in the standard, which was introduced under UAP, was an error. From a technical view, however, all other countries supported the actual test as a positive step forward in safety terms.

It was agreed to record in the minutes that the introduction of a new test in the latest EN 12521 was a mistake, but the WG did not support an amendment.

EN 14749 Domestic Storage – France has noted some issues with the tests for items supporting TV's. There has been a fatality in France and France would like the standard amended.

It was agreed that there may be a problem with stability in EN 14749, potentially with both TV units and other furniture.

France submitted a proposal for changes to the document, after a fairly heated discussion it was agreed to hold a workshop in France on 30/31 January 2018 to assess the methods and the problems.

It was noted that there is an ISO workshop looking at stability in Almhult, Sweden in February and this may feed also feed into this subject.

Toppling furniture was discussed and the production of a best practice guide. It was noted that many countries are working on similar documents. The Australian guide was reviewed which was very good/interesting. There are concerns about the impact of carpet on furniture and this needs to be considered in any workshop. There are things that can be done to improve design by reducing the centre of gravity.

The CPSC in the US have sent out advanced notification that they are looking at preparing a law regarding toppling furniture. It is not clear whether this will involve bringing ASTM 2057 into law, or a tougher requirement. US industry is keen on this as they are being blamed for the incidents.

IKEA is working on some test methods as well. It may not be as simple as increasing test loads as this means that furniture is heavier and therefore if it does topple it may be more serious.

As well as looking at the stability workshops Kjeld Bűlow (DK) will work on a similar best practice guide with support from IKEA (SE), Georg Lange (DE) and Phil Reynolds (UK).

ISO TC136 Work programme – Information only

ISO TC 136 WG5 Co-ordinating sizes meeting date was discussed, agreed to be a webex. Initially there is a need to collate documents from other countries (e.g. Europe, China, Australia and US).

ISO TC 136 WG3, Storage, new convenor – Tomas Etsrűm – had webexes to deal with comments on ISO 7170, strength and durability of storage furniture and ISO 7171, stability of furniture. In the future the standards may be combined. There will be a workshop in February to look at ISO 7171, and it is anticipated that the document will be published within the timescales. It may be necessary to ask for a 9 month extension for ISO 7170.

The development of the IEC furniture standard was discussed, this could also have an impact on furniture, it was noted that this could also have an impact on furniture standards. It is essential that there is a liaison between IEC and ISO committees.

ISO TC 136 WG4, Tables, some questions around the definition of main surface and ancillary surface. It was discussed that this is a very difficult issue to address because of the number of designs on the market. There was a long discussion about how to test gate-leg tables as the test method standard isn't clear. There were a number of areas where there were different interpretations of the standard.

It was agreed that these issues should actually be forwarded to CEN TC207 WG9 and considered for the revision of EN 1730. This is due for 5 year review in January 2018 and it is expected that we should not wait for the ISO document to be completed.

ISO TC136 WG1, Seating. ISO 7173 – plan is to try to get the document completed before the next ISO TC136 plenary. Three webex meetings have been scheduled.

Any other business

Machinery Directive – new MD guidance now includes electrically actuated domestic furniture in the scope. Originally an exclusion was offered by Ian Fraiser (previously in charge of this MD advisory committee), this appears to have now gone. Currently the furniture industry is generally looking at compliance by the GPSD and Low Voltage Directive.

EFIC has raised questions with the EU commission.

National meetings with enforcement etc. are being arranged to discuss these issues. The plan is to share the information from this.

EN 1022 – UK raised the issue that EN 1022 would go to Formal Vote at the end of March. The main issue for domestic furniture would be ‘office style’ swivelling chairs which would now be tested with 13 disks for rewards stability rather than the current 11 disks.

Decisions

A decision was taken to identify problems with stability tests in EN 14749 and that a workshop will be undertaken to look at these issues in January.

A decision was taken to look at producing a best practice document in relation to furniture tipping (safe design, manufacture and information).

A decision was taken to check national standards regarding kitchen co-ordinating sizes for a common approach.

All decisions were taken by unanimity.