

BCA Member Companies only

1 Construction Products Regulation (CPR)

Since the Council meeting in June 2017, the following key things have progressed:

- a) In respect of their Reaction to Fire cables became subject to the Construction Products Regulation as from 1st July 2017.
- b) A public “reminder” had been issued a few days before – see C 3738.
- c) Europacable issued a statement “Putting safety first: Europacable welcomes CPR”

<http://www.europacable.com/news/europacable-news.html>

The emphasis is strongly on market surveillance. Updates are awaited.

- d) Notified test houses have remained under pressure. Many reports have come through of backlogs.
- e) Many members, and where possible the office, have been scrutinising the market, especially to see if Declarations of Performance (DoPs) and CE marking labels are correct. The major faults have been in the description of “Intended use”, but instances of incorrect classification marking and some where no DoP number is shown have also been seen. An issue causing concern is that of “uniqueness” of the product description, as between something generic and something specific. Assistance has been given to ACI that has released a press statement on the matter.

Through technical and related committees a number of other matters remain on-going, including:

- Completion of the standards work for Resistance to Fire. Although some small amendments may be needed, all test methods are now published, but a final decision is awaited before the creation of a product standard can be agreed. Included in this is an updating of the relevant classification standard (EN 13501-3) which is controlled by CEN not CENELEC.
- The basic EXAP rules for all generic types of cable – energy, metallic data and optical fibre – have now been agreed, including with Notified Bodies. Work can now begin to create a full European standard for this by updating CENELEC Technical Specification TS 50576 into EN 50576.
- The main test method for Reaction to Fire (EN 50399) is the subject of a round-robin exercise which may result in some amendments to procedure. Variations in classifications between Notified Laboratories have been revealed independently of the round-robin.

2 Low Voltage Directive and the UK Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations

As reported in C 3697, the updated Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations came into force on 8th December 2016. They enact for the UK the provisions of the recast Low Voltage Directive (2014/35/EU). The text may be accessed online via:

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http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2016/1101/pdfs/ukxi_20161101_en.pdf

At a European level the specific guidance document on LVD remains under revision. The official draft is still the one from 2015:

<http://ec.europa.eu/DocsRoom/documents/13141?locale=en>

3 “BREXIT” – Technical standards work - Progress

BSI has continued to interface with BEIS and with CEN, CENELEC and ETSI to ensure that UK can continue as full contributing members of the European bodies, and thus adopt their standards.

The CEO of BSI, Dr Howard Kerr, recently announced that the objective is receiving good support amongst the European standards bodies, and the future position seems to be very positive. There would need to be a small, though important, change to the rules in order for UK to retain full membership. This is being actively addressed.

4 BS 7671 – Wiring Regulations

The work to create an 18th edition of BS 7671 (the Wiring Regulations) has progressed. The important “Draft for Public Comment (DPC) stage concluded at the end of August. Almost 1500 comments have been received, running to nearly 400 pages. These are scheduled to be resolved in the expert Panels by the end of November.

BCA’s primary comments have covered two aspects:

- **CPR** – After considerable debate, the proposed way forward is to explain CPR in an Appendix, and then refer to it only via informative notes. The pre-existing requirements would remain as the stipulated performance criteria. This approach is not supported by some others, including those drafting a revision of BS 6701 that covers installation of telecommunication cabling. Their DPC included specific references to CPR classes of cable for reaction to fire.
- **Public standards** – There is increasing evidence that the concession in BS 7671 to allow equipment to be installed that is to a non-UK standard is subject to variable interpretation, including accepting products that are not to a full safety specification. Cables have been affected. Comments have been made in an effort to tighten this, but similar efforts in the past were rejected.

The target publication date is 1st July 2018.

5 BSI electrotechnical structure - ESSAC

ESSAC is the Electrotechnical Standardization Strategic Advisory Council. It replaces the former British Electrotechnical Committee (BEC) as the formal strategic body in BSI covering our side of industry. It reports to BSI’s Standards Policy and Strategy Committee (SPSC).

ESSAC comprises senior figures from industry and other relevant stakeholder groups, appointed on a personal basis. Industry members can be nominated by ElecTech (formerly ESCO), although BSI has the overall responsibility for ensuring a balanced and comprehensive constitution. BCA does not have membership of ESSAC.

ESSAC will also serve as the standards committee for ElecTech, including a watching brief for electrotechnical standardization undertaken other than through the formal IEC and CLC structures (e.g. BSI national standards and PASs, consortium standardization).

ESSAC will fulfil the functions of the UK National Committee of IEC and CENELEC from a constitutional point of view.

L/1, on which BCA is represented, is to be restructured and refocused as a more broadly based body to serve as a forum for the concerns and interests of the full range of BSI committees mirroring IEC and CENELEC activities. L/1 will next meet on 25th September 2017.

The secretaryship of L/1 changes shortly.

6 Recent standards publications

Amongst recent standards publications have been the following:

- **IEC 62895** - *High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) power transmission cables with extruded insulation and their accessories for rated voltages up to 320 kV for land applications - Test methods and requirements*
- **BS IEC 60287-3-1** *Electric cables – Calculation of the current rating. Part 3-1: Section on operating conditions – reference operating conditions*
(NOTE: Sadly this omitted part of the UK entry. BSI has accepted responsibility and will republish shortly)
- **BS IEC 60287-2-3** *Electric cables – Calculation of the current rating. Part 2-3: Cables installed in ventilated tunnels*
- **IEC 60092-376** – *Electrical installations in ships – Part 376: Cables for control and instrumentation circuits 150/250 V (300 V)*
- **BS EN 50620: 2017** *Electric cables — Charging cables for electric vehicles*
(NOTE: As a consequence of the updating of the Low Voltage Directive it is now required that standards falling under this Directive should a) contain a legal annex (Annex ZZ) and b) be subject to scrutiny by an EC appointed consultant, before being granted “deemed to comply” status with an OJEU listing. 100s of standards, covering a wide-variety of industries, are now covered by this procedure, which has been subject to long bureaucratic delays and arguments at a very high level. As a consequence some standards, of which EN 50620 is one, are being published without this legal backing.)

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Previous Newsletters- **Restricted to BCA members only**

All back numbers of the Technical Newsletter are available on the restricted (Members-only) section of the BCA website (www.bcauk.org). Please ask Paul Sweet for username and password for the Members-only section if you do not already have them. Please note that the username and password were last updated in February 2016.

- 1 May 2001 (C/2851);
- 2 September 2001 (C/2872);
- 3 February 2002 (C/2910);
- 4 June 2002 (C/2925);
- 5 September 2002 (C/2938);
- 6 March 2003 (C/2974);
- 7 July 2003 (C/3003);
- 8 November 2003 (C/3026);
- 9 March 2004 (C/3039);
- 10 September 2004 (C/3055);
- 11 February 2005 (C/3067);
- 12 May 2005 (C/3094);
- 13 October 2005 (C/3121);
- 14 February 2006 (C/3135);
- 15 May 2006 (C/3160)
- 16 October 2006 (C/3177);
- 17 Special CPD issue –December 2006 (C/3197)
- 18 March 2007 (C/3202)
- 19 June 2007 (C/3220)
- 20 October 2007 (C/3231)
- 21 March 2008 (C/3247)
- 22 May 2008 (C/3269)
- 23 September 2008 (C/3286)
- 24 January 2009 (C/3320)
- 25 June 2009 (C/3352)
- 26 Autumn 2009 (C/3396)
- 27 February 2010 (C/3407)
- 28 April 2010 (C/3420)
- 29 October 2010 (C/3468)
- Special issue – Standards – January 2011 (C/3473)
- 30 April 2011 (C/3480)
- Special issue – EN 50525 – June 2011 (C/3487)
- 31 September 2011 (C/3493)
- 32 December 2011 (C/3497)
- Special issue – IEC 60811 – June 2012 (C/3517)
- 33 September 2012 (C/3528)
- 34 Spring 2013 (C/3540)
- 35 June 2013 (C/3552)
- 36 November 2013 (C/3574)
- 37 Spring 2014 (C/3587)
- 38 Summer 2014 (C/3600)
- 39 February 2015 (C/3619)
- 40 Summer 2015 (C/3635)
- 41 Autumn 2015 (C/3649)
- 42 March 2016 (C/3661)
- 43 June 2016 (C/3669)

