

**BCA – Technical Newsletter – Issue No. 47
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BCA Member Companies only

1 Construction Products Regulation (CPR)

Apart from the issues reported from Task Force “CPR Implementation”, the following matters should be noted:

- a) The Europacable (ECBL) project aimed at identifying the causes of variability of test results in the EN 50399 test has continued to dominate work within the industry. Notified Bodies (NBs) are well informed, though they have concerns about the possible “naming and shaming” of particular laboratories. ECBL is emphasising that the work aims to tighten the test procedure and protocol, and will ask NBs to ensure that any improvements are fully adopted by the labs.

In the meantime the earlier round-robin organised by the NBs, and involving both their own laboratories and those of manufacturers has, after a very long delay, produced a report. Although there are caveats, not least because many laboratories failed to report results, there are some recommendations for improvements to the test protocol and also for the proper training of relevant laboratory staff.

- b) The anticipated public consultation relating to the future of the CPR was released by the European Commission in late January. There is a questionnaire and associated information.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-eu-rules-products-used-construction-buildings-and-infrastructure-works_en

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/OpenPublicConsultationOnConstructionProducts>

ECBL has proposed to create a coordinated European industry position. Further details of this may be available in time for Council, where a decision can be taken in any specific action is needed at UK level. The closing date is 16 April 2018.

- c) The key finalisation work on standards for Resistance to Fire remains on hold, but it has been reported that a majority of members of the ECBL Industry Leadership Team favour discontinuation. If this is subsequently confirmed, it would necessitate an eventual dialogue with EC to formalise matters.

In the meantime it has been established that only one country within ECBL supports the view that cables with an intended usage for circuit integrity (resistance to fire) are allowed to have a Declaration of Performance and CE marking under CPR for reaction to fire. Every other country recognises their exclusion via the scope of EN 50575.

- d) Apart from their endorsement of the principles within the BCA statement on the relationship between voluntary standards and the legal (statutory) requirements of the CPR (C 3768), the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) advised or confirmed certain other matters. They included:

- that they are the official place for public **questions/enquiries about CPR**. Those for cables have declined, and have mainly revolved around “Does this or that cable fall under CPR?” MHCLG has been grateful for the BCA guides to assist

them. They know of no other CPR product sector where questions have arisen that parallel those for cables.

- confirmation that **legacy stock**, i.e. any cables placed on the EU market prior to 1st July 2017, did not need to have a DoP and CE marking, nor can it be given retrospectively, nor is there any time limit on the onward sale.
- post-Grenfell the review of **The Building Regulations** will give a very high priority to fire safety and hence Approved Document B.

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

The expected launch of an evaluation study for the LVD has yet to emerge. It has been stated that news will appear on the relevant EC website, which is:

http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/electrical-engineering/lvd-directive_en

3 Office for Product Safety and Standards

The office has been in contact with BEIS in respect of the recently announced establishment of the Office for Product Safety and Standards.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-office-for-product-safety-and-standards>

The major driving force for this seems to come from the serious fire safety problems that have emerged within larger white goods, such as tumble dryers, fridges etc. Cables per se do not appear to be a target product, at least in the outset.

4 PAS 7100 – Product recall

The Government's new Office for Product Safety and Standards has teamed up with BSI to launch the first Government-backed Code of Practice (PAS 7100) for product safety related recall and other corrective action in the UK. This new guidance will help businesses understand what they need to do if something goes wrong with their product. The Code of Practice includes details on how a business can monitor the safety of products and plan for a recall, and how Market Surveillance Authorities such as local authority Trading Standards can support businesses in their monitoring of incidents and their implementation of corrective action.

5 BSI and Brexit

BSI's position for post-BREXIT has been set down in a recently-issued paper. It can be accessed via:

<https://www.bsigroup.com/en-GB/about-bsi/uk-national-standards-body/EUReferendum/Brexit-and-standards-position-statement/>

6 BS 7671 – Wiring Regulations

The technical work to create an 18th edition of BS 7671 (the IET Wiring Regulations) has concluded. The remaining work should be only editorial and proof-reading.

The scheduled publication date is 1st July 2018, but there is then a six month transition period before the new edition comes into effect on 1st January 2019.

Attention will now turn towards unresolved issues, such as the previously identified clauses that allow equipment to be installed that is to a non-UK standard. In addition BCA has requested a major review of all aspects of fire safety within BS 7671. This is to be examined initially within one of the sub-committees.

7 Standards news

Amongst recent standards publications have been the following:

- **IEC 60230** - *Impulse tests on cables and their accessories*
(NOTE: This new edition is the first for 60 years. It has been adopted by CENELEC and will shortly appear as BS EN 60230)
- **IEC 62930** – *Electric cables for photovoltaic systems with a voltage rating of 1,5 kV DC*
(NOTE: This is the international version of EN 50618. At present the two publications remain separate, so in UK we should use the BS EN 50618)
- **BS EN 50655** - *Electric cables - Accessories - Material characterization*
(NOTE: This standard is in three parts covering resins, heat-shrink sleeving and cold-shrink sleeving)

Significant on-going work includes:

- **IEC 63026**. This new standard covers submarine power cables rated 6-60 kV. It is mainly aimed at offshore wind farm applications. It was recently released for its comment stage (CD). Relevant BCA members have reviewed the draft and submitted 10-11 pages of technical and editorial comments aimed at improving the text.

8 Hybrid cables

During the latter part of 2017, IEC published **IEC 62807-1** “*Hybrid telecommunication cables - Part 1: Generic specification*”

The standard, which was heavily supported by China, is applicable to hybrid cables intended to contain any combination of optical fibres, twisted pair/quad, coaxial and current-carrying electrical conductor elements as required under a common outer sheath.

For reasons that remain unclear, the standard became part of the procedure that allows IEC standards to be automatically adopted with CENELEC, and the process went unchecked up to the point at which EN 62807-1 had been prepared for publication. This publication has been halted following an intervention from the CENELEC TC for metallic data cables. ECBL supported the move. At the time of writing the eventual outcome remains unclear.

9 Grenfell Tower

To date the only outcome from any of the official enquiries post-Grenfell Tower, has been the interim report of Dame Judith Hackitt. It can be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-of-building-regulations-and-fire-safety-interim-report>

Although not conclusive, there is an indication in the interim report that risk based solutions may be preferable to highly prescriptive ones. This could influence the review of The Building Regulations. As a preliminary to such a review, MHCLG has already engaged with the principal users of The Building Regulations via a questionnaire aimed at determining how “*the suite of Approved Documents could be structured and ordered to provide a more streamlined, holistic view while retaining the right level of relevant technical detail.*”

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Previous Newsletters- Restricted to BCA members only

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- 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)
- 44 Autumn 2016 (C/3687)
- 45 Autumn 2017 (C/3741)
- 46 December 2017 (C/3756)