

**BCA – Technical Newsletter – Issue No. 41
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1 Construction Products Regulation (CPR)

The optimism expressed in the previous Newsletter (C 3635) was subsequently negated by actions (and inactions) of the European Commission (EC) and CEN/CENELEC. This was explained via a paper to Council in late September (C 3647).

Since then intensive discussions and representations have been made with EC and CEN/CENELEC. BCA also had a constructive meeting with the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG), who are sympathetic to industry's frustration and, if a crucial point is reached, would give supportive input as appropriate.

As described in C 3647, the sticking points have revolved around two small, non-technical, corrections to EN 50575; one relating to reference to other EU legislation, e.g. LVD; the second to the way in which Release of Dangerous Substances is covered in the Annex ZZ. It was established without contention that ECBL's revised wording for Annex ZZ is acceptable. For the point about reference to other EU legislation it was more difficult to gain mutual agreement. Sad to say, it was CEN/CENELEC wanting to be totally inflexible about the rules for drafting standards that proved the major obstacle.

The matter has now been resolved (though in the longer-term may not fully go away) and, subject to formal approval by the Standing Committee on Construction (SCC), the next relevant issue of the OJEU on Friday 13th November 2015 will:

- Maintain the listing of EN 50575;
- Move the Date of Applicability (DoA) to 1st July 2016;
- By extension move the end of co-existence to 1st July 2017.

All this will be on the assumption that CEN/CENELEC can process the necessary amendment to the EN in due time. ECBL has done the drafting work for the amendment; it is in the hands of CEN/CENELEC. Any further delay by the standards body is likely to be the subject of severe criticism by ECBL.

In the meantime the good liaison with Notified Bodies is allowing the steady completion of practical matters, including for EXAP rules that will confirm the detailed sampling and testing arrangements of the approval system. The technical work to complete standards relating to Resistance to Fire is continuing.

2 Directives and Regulations (excluding CPR)

The consultation for the revised **Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations (EE(S)R)** has taken place (C 3645). This revision is consequential upon the "re-cast", Low Voltage Directive. No serious issues were raised within BCA, though there is a strong realisation that the responsibilities placed upon the market surveillance authorities will be impossible to meet due to resource limitations. It will thus fall to stakeholders, including the cable industry, to monitor the market as much as possible.

The revised EE(S)R comes into effect on 1st April 2016, by which time the updated **EC "Blue Guide"** should be available. As noted before (i.e. in C 3591) this is a very useful adjunct to the LVD and all other New Approach Directives. The updated version will take account of

the key aspects that have been strengthened, such as the responsibilities of the economic operators (manufacturers, importers, distributors).

In conjunction with the “Blue Guide” there will be a revision of the specific guidance on the updated **EMC Directive (2014/30/EU)**. BCA has seen a draft and noted that the exclusion of cables, cabling and cable accessories, when considered separately, remains unchanged.

3 BCA Joint Working Group “Fire”

Full agreement was reached during the summer for the establishment of the new joint WG between CCG and ECG to cover matters relating to fire testing and closely related issues. It will essentially mirror the work of the ECBL JWG “Fire”.

A transitional meeting was held in early September with experts from both product groups. Major topics were:

- Completion of CPR test methods for Resistance to Fire
- Development of EXAP rules for cable selection and testing for Reaction to Fire under CPR;
- Experimental work in support of the new IEC project for measuring halogens via ion chromatography;
- Possible extension to larger cable sizes of the IEC method (IEC 60331-3) for testing resistance to fire of single core cables. The published version is limited at present to about 70 mm².

Under normal circumstances the JWG will meet about twice a year.

4 BS 7629-1

Following a high level rejection of the persistent comments and objections of one individual, BSI eventually published the revised version of:

BS 7629-1 *Electric cables, Specification for 300/500 V fire resistant, screened, fixed installation cables having low emission of smoke and corrosive gases when affected by fire. Part 1: Multicore cables*

Members should note that this new 2015 edition has been given a 12 month transition period, essentially to assist the test houses and approval bodies (BASEC, BRE) manage their certification. Thus the pre-existing 2008 edition will not formally be superseded until 31st August 2016.

5 Standards progress

After a number of frustrating delays and interventions from BSI, some being due to frequent changes of personnel with their editing (called content developing) function, key revisions and new drafts of national standards are now making progress:

- The revision of **BS 7846** (Fire resistant 1 kV armoured for power applications) has passed its Draft for Public Comment (DPC) stage. Publication before end-2015 is highly likely;
- Corresponding revisions of the mainstream LV armoured cables (**BS 5467** and **BS 6724**) have just entered the public comment stage;

- The new standard for single core fire resistant cables (**BS 8592**) has also entered DPC stage.

At a European level, three important test methods should be published before end-2015. These are:

- **EN 50200 (revision) and EN 50577.** These cover respectively the test required for PH and P classifications under CPR. In both cases special protocols for metallic data cables (EN 50289-4-16) and optical fibre cables (EN 50582) will follow. It should be recalled that a resistance to fire classification under CPR, and CE marking, cannot legally be claimed until an equivalent harmonised product standard to EN 50575 is accepted by EC.
- **EN 50289-1-17** “*Communications cables – specifications for test methods – Part 1-17: Electrical test methods – Exogenous crosstalk ExNEXT and ExFEXT*”. This is important as it complements the work on 40G and above standards for copper cables. (See also the Summer 2015 Newsletter about 40G cables).

6 Roles and resources

The ever-increasing pressure on technical resources has been highlighted on more than one occasion. As well as other business priorities there is the demographic influence leading to retirement of key individuals. The issue will again be highlighted at forthcoming Board meetings within the ECBL structure. Amongst examples of the situation it will be noted that the technical WG for industrial LV cables will lose its convenor (Dr Jan Schutten) early next year. Member companies are unable to nominate a successor, so a National Association (Germany) has volunteered to step in.

7 IET workshop

The next Workshop event for Young Engineers and Professionals is scheduled for 28 April 2016 at the soon-to-be reopened IET building (Savoy Place). It will continue to embrace selection of those to represent UK at IEC’s annual Young Professionals event.

BCA members have supported this in previous years. It is a free event, and provides a good introduction to the world of standards and standards-making. Full details are awaited.

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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)