

**BCA – Technical Newsletter – Issue No. 49
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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 analysis of data from the Europacable (ECBL) project aimed at identifying the causes of variability of test results in the EN 50399 test has been used to develop a draft Best Practice Guide. This has been offered to the Notified Bodies (NBs), who are reported to have made some acceptable comments that will allow finalisation, and upward transmission to their senior body. When formally approved, a final version will be adopted officially by the NBs, all of whom will be strongly pressed to adopt it, and thus to provide a more uniform standard of testing.

Looking further ahead, the data obtained will be used to create an official CENELEC amendment to EN 50399.

In addition, and maybe not for 9-12 months after the Guide is introduced, the NBs may run a further round-robin or equivalent to ensure that the work has resulted in a meaningful improvement.

- b) Europacable’s intention to carry out preliminary and informal discussions with other bodies such as CECAPI (European trade body for Cable Management Systems) about the future of the work on standards for Resistance to Fire has not yet been completed.

In the meantime the work to generate an EU Delegated Act for resistance to fire under CPR is reported to be close to completion.

- c) The way in which on-going work on CPR is covered within ECBL is undergoing a re-organisation. The Technical Committee (TC CPR) recently held its final meeting and is being disbanded. Under the Industry Leadership Team, future work on CPR will be handled by two Working Groups. WG CPR will continue to look after policy, and will also take responsibility for the remaining technical liaisons, including with Notified Bodies. It may create one or more small technical Task Forces to assist. WG “Communications” will continue to produce general papers, plus carrying out surveys and maintaining FAQs. UK membership of these groups is weak.

2 Grenfell Tower

In the wake of the Grenfell Tower disaster, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has released a draft update of the building regulations guidance on fire safety (Approved Document B). The aim is to improve usability and reduce the risk of misinterpretation by those carrying out and inspecting building work. A major change from the pre-existing text is that Volume 1 “Dwellings” now includes all high-rise flats. These were previously grouped with non-dwellings and other buildings in Volume 2. No new prescriptive requirements have been introduced for products such as cables. Therefore the choice of class for reaction to fire remains as now, i.e. for the specifier.

3 Low Voltage Directive (LVD)

The updated EU guidelines for the Low Voltage Directive have been published. It is:

LVD 2014/35/EU - Guidelines on the application of the directive - August 2018

The guidelines, which include photographic examples of products that are deemed to be within or outside the Directive, can be found via the following link:

<http://ec.europa.eu/DocsRoom/documents/31221>

This should not be confused with the Blue Guide (2016/C 272/01), which covers all New Approach Directives, not just LVD. See:

<http://ec.europa.eu/DocsRoom/documents/18027/>

4 BS 7671 – Wiring Regulations

The 18th edition of BS 7671 (the IET Wiring Regulations) was published in July 2018. It will come into effect on 1st January 2019. There have already been reports of counterfeit versions being found on the market which, as with earlier examples, may well contain errors relating to safety.

Following BCA's concerns that the matter of fire safety needs a careful review, there has been an initial meeting of the relevant sub-committee at IET. BCA members from both energy and communication cable sides attended. More work is needed, including in consultation with fire safety experts. The ultimate objective will be to propose improvements for Amendment No 1 to the 18th edition, for which there is no confirmed publication date, though it will not be before late-2021.

5 General standards news

- BSI has recently published new editions of all 6 Parts of **BS EN IEC 60332-3 (series)** - "*Tests for electric cables under fire conditions*". These cover the well-known flame propagation test using cables mounted on a vertical ladder. Two important aspects should be noted. Firstly, the 18th edition of the Wiring Regulations (BS 7671) still calls up relevant parts of this standard. Secondly, EN 50399 covering CPR says that "The test apparatus shall consist of the test chamber, standard ladder and ignition source, as described in EN 60332-3-10".
- It has recently been confirmed by BSI that they will continue to maintain the availability of **PAS 5308** "*Control and instrumentation cables*". It is in two parts, polyethylene types and PVC types, and was created in 2009 from the earlier BS 5308 publications. BCA sponsored the work to ensure retention at the time when CENELEC was introducing a conflicting standard – EN 50288-7. It should be noted that the CENELEC standard has commenced a full review. Upon completion it may be offered to IEC, as that body has no standards for such cables.
- Work on standards for **MV joints and terminations** is reaching an important time. The painstaking work in CENELEC over recent years is coming to fruition with the imminent formal vote for the updating of HD 629.1, which addresses accessories for polymeric cables. This should lead to publication in early 2019, with a consequential new edition for BS 7888-4.1. Attention will now turn to two closely related aspects. Firstly, the equivalent international standard, IEC 60502-4, is to be reviewed. An

objective will be to introduce as much of the CENELEC work as possible. Secondly, at CENELEC level, work is to begin on a separate standard for MV transition joints and equivalent accessories. BCA's accessory members are already planning to contribute strongly.

6 BSI and social media

Council has received a separate paper (C 3797) explaining how derogatory comments on social media are to be treated by BSI. This follows on from a spate of such messages after publication of BS 7671. If any such messages relating to BCA and its members come to light, please advise the office immediately.

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If you have not registered for the site, you will need to do so before access is granted. Details can be found in document C 3767. If you have any problems please contact Paul Sweet.

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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)
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- 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)

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- 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)
- 47 Spring 2018 (C/3770)
- 48 June 2018 (C/3786)