

**BCA – Technical Newsletter – Issue No. 50
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BCA Member Companies only

1 Construction Products Regulation (CPR)

Apart from the issues reported from Task Force “CPR Implementation” (C 3825), the following matters should be noted:

- a) The official EC consultation exercise about **the future of the CPR** concluded in April 2018, and an analysis of responses was published towards the end of 2018. The options for changes went from “do nothing” through to a major revision. The majority view was for minor changes. The analysis did not offer any guidance as to the next step, nor did it say when any future activity may begin.
- b) Two major issues relating to **Resistance to Fire** are incomplete. The Delegated Act which, when completed, should codify all the classifications for resistance to fire of the various products, has been through a comment stage, but no outcome is known. For cables, where the P and PH classifications will be included, industry has commented that some unused and unwanted durations had been added, such as 240 minutes, and has asked for their removal.

The second issue is the technical work on the harmonised product standard for resistance to fire. This remains outstanding pending completion of ECBL's consultations with other industries and with EC.

- c) The major ECBL testing programme to assess anomalies in data from **EN 50399** has been completed, and the findings shared with NBs. The objectives are a) for the NBs to publish a Best Practice Guide (BPG) which would incorporate improvements to the test protocol, and would be made available to all their members, and b) to make corresponding amendments to EN 50399 via the CENELEC procedures. Latest reports suggest that NBs are hesitant about one or two issues, so finalisation may be delayed. In the meantime, ECBL strongly requests that the matter remains strictly confidential and outside the public domain.

2 Building Regulations

The Building Regulations 2010 apply in England and, with some special exceptions, in Wales. Scotland and N Ireland have separate legislation.

An urgent review, especially in respect of fire safety, is being undertaken through the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), and is motivated by the Hackitt report following the disaster at Grenfell Tower. The current phase of work concentrates on a “Call for evidence” relating to Approved Document B (C 3815). Whilst anybody may offer input and evidence, the CPR Implementation Task Force has been assessing proposals to give a combined BCA response. It is hoped to have this available for the Council meeting on 26 February 2019, as replies are due 3 days later.

3 EU Directives and regulations – Post-BREXIT

BEIS has set before Parliament a draft Statutory Instrument covering multiple Directives and Regulations for products, and the legislative amendments that will be needed post-Brexit. It is consumer and product safety oriented, so includes legislation derived from the New Approach directives such as LVD and EMCD, plus the General Product Safety Directive and matters relating to the safety of machinery.

It includes all the crossings out of 'EU', 'CE' and replacement by 'UK', and also covers Notified/Approved bodies.

It can be found at:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111176368>

There does not appear to be any substantive change in requirements relating to the LVD (Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations in UK). The principle of self-declaration will continue to apply, though the legislation will be de-Europeanised.

4 BS 7671 – Wiring Regulations and related matters

- a) The 18th edition of BS 7671 (the IET Wiring Regulations) came fully into effect on 1st January 2019. Before that date it was necessary to make a Corrigendum. This is freely available at:

<https://electrical.theiet.org/bs-7671/>

Work has begun towards an Amendment No 1 to the 18th edition. A public call for proposals has been made and is open until 31st May 2019. This, and input made via the committee, is wanted by the end of October 2019. A timetable for the subsequent procedures, including the Draft for Public Comment stage, has been agreed, with a target date of March 2022 for publication. As reported previously, BCA experts are especially looking to offer improved text relating to matters around fire safety, as well as a definition of suitable product standards.

- b) As an adjunct to BS 7671, IET privately develops and publishes many **Guidance Documents**. A new one aimed at installers and specifiers is under development, and will especially cover cables and cable management systems. It will embrace telecommunication cables as well as traditional energy types. Members from both sides of BCA's cable interests, plus the secretariat, are on the panel that is overseeing the work. Publication is likely around Q4 2019.
- c) Historically the Irish equivalent of BS 7671 uses much of the same material. NSAI is therefore currently revising **I.S. 10101 National Rules for Electrical Installations (Revision of ET 101:2008)**.

A copy of the draft is available upon request. The comment deadline is 28th Feb.

5 General standards news

- There are many things for which a single global practice does not exist. For optical fibre cables one of these is colour coding. IEC has now published a Technical Report on the matter, namely: **IEC TR 63194 ED1: Colour coding of optical fibre cables – Guidelines**. It is in many ways a catalogue of differing regional and national

practices. The scope of the TR acknowledges that *“This technical report lists the major colour codes in various Regions throughout the world. Noting that decades of discussion of a universal recommended colour coding scheme has failed to reach agreement, the technical report does not intend to promote any of the listed colour codes above any other.”*

- By contrast, IEC now has a standard for superconducting cables. It recently published **IEC 63075 ED1** *Superconducting AC power cables and their accessories for rated voltages from 6 kV to 500 kV - Test methods and requirements*. The majority of the work on this standard came from outside Europe.
- In UK, BSI has published a strongly-promoted Publically Available Specification relating to product recalls. Whilst the emphasis is on consumer products, some of the content will be useful in more general situations, such as those covering cables. The document is **PAS 7100:2018** - *Code of practice on consumer product safety related recalls and other corrective actions: Part I: Business Part II: Regulators*.
- The demand for cables that survive and function during fires continues to grow beyond those traditionally used for applications such as fire alarms. At the behest of the committee for ships and offshore applications it has been agreed to extend the testing of cables for resistance to fire (circuit integrity) to rated voltages above 1 kV up to a maximum of 30 kV. It will become **IEC 60331-4**. The formal procedures will begin this year.

6 Energy Networks Association

The long-standing good relationship between BCA and ENA continues. At least once each year there is a secretariat level meeting to cover general matters of mutual interest, and another to look in detail at technical work, including relevant public standards and the maintenance of ENA's in-house specifications. Such meetings can be reinforced by special Task Forces. A recent example concerned the failure (so-called pavement-explosions) of 1 kV link boxes. Another is planned to look at special problems with Waveform cables arising from the rapidly growing demand for larger sizes.

In 2018 ENA moved to its new home close to Tower Bridge. It maintains an informative website, with regular press releases.

<http://www.energynetworks.org/news/press-releases/overview/>

7 Resources and representation

Whilst BCA's various technical committees and working groups are functioning and are supported by relevant members, Council should be aware that availability of our experts to participate in work at BSI, or in Europe (ECBL and CENELEC) and globally (IEC) is less secure. The national position is under a major review; those for Europe and for IEC work will follow.

A number of factors can or could influence such availability. These include:

- Pressure on the time of technical experts within their companies seems to increase. Day-to-day matters take priority; standards are not always seen as so important;
- The cost of travelling to meetings is more and more under scrutiny;
- Although facilities for electronic, WebEx type, meetings are improving - BSI, CENELEC and even IEC are all promoting enhanced facilities – the usage may be

restricted by constraints such as agenda size, and timings. Especially at a global level experts in Australia or California may not welcome a 6 hour meeting starting at 10.00 GMT. Face-to-face meetings retain an importance.

- Efforts to “fragment” work into bite-sized chunks are beginning, but this already shows some evidence of incompatible disconnects arising for the complete standard or work item.

In terms of standards work, the UK retains three advantages over many others. These are:

- Membership of BSI committees is free of any direct charge. This is a minority situation;
- Some funding (AITS) is available to defined industry experts (but not those in public sector roles) for travel outside UK. This is believed to be unique.
- The language of standards is English, and there is a demand for UK experts to assist in drafting. This gives the closest possible access to, and influence upon, the final text.

If Council can continue to support the principle of the best possible industry representation, then the individual product groups and their TCs will identify key gaps.

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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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- 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)
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- 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)

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- 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)
- 49 Autumn 2018 (C/3800)