Bar stool *footrests* and footing: heights, loads and floor protection

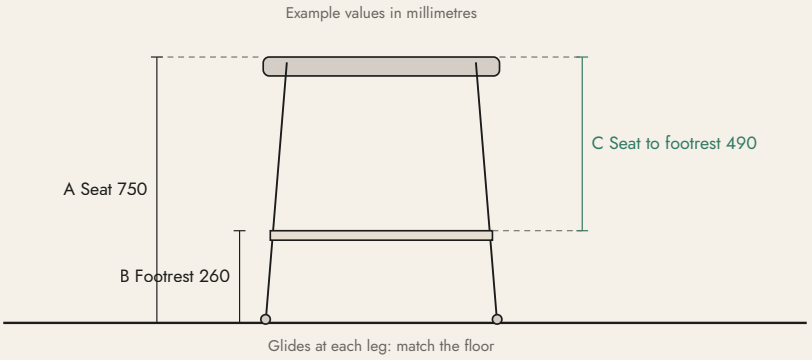
Footrest position, the loads recorded in EN 16139 test reports, the fixing and finish, and floor protection.

Compliance guidance. The loads quoted are those printed in three accredited test reports for the editions named, not figures from the standard itself. Check the current edition of BS EN 16139 and BS EN 1728 and the level (L1 or L2) for your use. Guidance, not engineering advice.

AT A GLANCE

Ref	Item	What it is	Basis
A	Seat height	From the floor to the seat, loaded.	See bar, counter and stool heights.
B	Footrest height	From the floor to the top of the rest.	Typical practice: set by the stool and the guest's leg. Confirm on a mock-up.
C	Seat to footrest	Vertical distance from seat to rest.	Check on a mock-up with a seated person; typical practice is not a standard.
D	Footrest load	Static and durability loads of the rest.	Read from the test report for the level and edition.
E	Fixing	How the rest joins the legs: welded, brazed, bolted or in a groove.	Ask the workshop and look at the report.
F	Finish at the foot	Wear where shoes rub: plating, powder coat, leather or sleeve.	Match the finish to the traffic; see the metal finishes sheets.
G	Floor protection	Glides or feet on each leg.	Choose for the floor: timber, stone, carpet.

Millimetres from the finished floor. Heights are typical practice and are confirmed on a mock-up; loads come from test reports.



Bar stool in side view with A seat height, B footrest height and C seat to footrest. Example values. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio, not to scale.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

FOOTREST POSITION

Stool seat height [750] mm, footrest [round tube / flat bar] [ ] mm in section, top of the footrest [260] mm above the finished floor, [490] mm below the seat, set clear of the counter overhang by [ ] mm. Dimensions to be confirmed on a mock-up with a seated person before production.

LOADS AND EVIDENCE

Footrest to be tested to BS EN 16139, edition [ ], level [L1 / L2], including the footrest static (EN 1728 clause 6.8) and durability (clause 6.21) tests. The supplier is to provide a test report for a stool of the same construction, or a written statement identifying the tested model and confirming the footrest matches it.

FIXING, FINISH AND FLOOR

Footrest to be fixed to the legs by [welding / through-bolting / bracket] and not by a screw into end grain or tube end. Finish at the footrest to be [ ] and tested for wear against a [shoe sole] sample. Leg glides to be [felt / hard / flat] for [floor finish], supplied with [ ] spare sets.

TERMS USED

Finished seat height

The height of the top of the upholstered seat above the finished floor. It is different unloaded and when sat on, because foam and feather compress, so drawings should state which one they mean.

Footrest

A rail, ring or bar on a tall stool where the sitter rests their feet.

Footrest static load test

A test in which a stated force is applied to the footrest for a set number of cycles. The force and cycles for each level are given in the standard and recorded in the test report.

Glide

A pad or foot fixed to a leg that contacts the floor and protects it.

Test severity level (L1, L2)

A grade of use in EN 16139: L1 is general use such as cafés, restaurants and bars; L2 is more extreme use.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- BS EN 16139:2025: Furniture. Strength, durability and safety. Requirements for non-domestic seating. Cited in the 2025 L2 report read. The standard itself was not read. BSI listing recorded in library notes: current from 31 Aug 2025; the 2013 edition withdrawn.
- BS EN 1728:2012: Domestic furniture. Seating. Test methods for strength and durability. Clause 6.8 (footrest static) and 6.21 (footrest durability) as cited in the reports. Not read.
- BS EN 1022:2023: Seating. Stability. Clause 7.3.2 (forwards overturning with footrest) as cited in the 2025 report. Not read.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/bar-stool-footrests-and-footing. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.