BS 7176 *hazard categories*, label and Crib 5

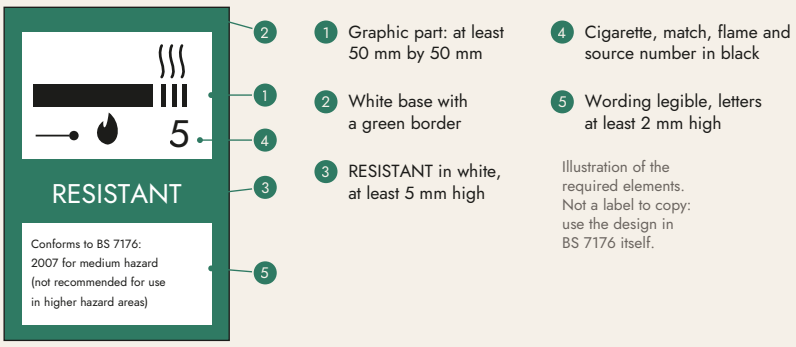
The four hazard categories, the tests each adds, the label, and what Crib 5 proves.

Compliance guidance. This is guidance, not legal or fire safety advice. The tables follow the FIRA and British Furniture Confederation guide (2010, updated 2011) on BS 7176:2007+A1:2011; the standard is paywalled and was not read. Check the current edition, and agree the hazard category with the Responsible Person or a fire safety consultant, and with building control where relevant.

AT A GLANCE

Category	Ignition tests the seating composite must resist	Typical premises (examples only)	Test methods named
Low	Smouldering cigarette (IS0) and match-flame equivalent (IS1)	Offices, schools, colleges, universities, museums, exhibitions, day centres	BS EN 1021-1 and -2
Medium	IS0 and IS1, plus flame source 5 (IS5, Crib 5)	Hotel bedrooms, restaurants, public houses and bars, hostels, hospitals, casinos, places of entertainment, public buildings and halls, services messes	Plus BS 5852:2006 clause 11
High	IS0 and IS1, plus flame source 7 (IS7, Crib 7)	Offshore installations; sleeping accommodation in certain hospital wards and certain hostels	Plus BS 5852:2006 clause 11
Very High	IS0, IS1 and IS7 on the components and the complete item	Locked psychiatric accommodation; prison cells	Plus BS 5852:2006 clause 11 or 12

From Tables 2 and 5 of the FIRA and BFC guide (2010, updated 2011). Premises are examples only; the assessment decides. IS = ignition source.



Label elements (FIRA and BFC guide, A1.4). Schematic, not a label to copy. Drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

CRIB 5: WHAT IT DOES AND DOES NOT PROVE

- Shows: the composite named in the report resisted flame source 5 (BS 5852:2006 clause 11): one part of Medium Hazard.
- Does not show: BS 7176's other tests and the label, or a pass for a different cover, filling or supplier (a new model).
- Does not show: that Crib 5 is the law (the risk assessment sets the level). Ask for 'BS 7176 Medium Hazard'.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

HAZARD CATEGORY AND STANDARD

Upholstered seating to comply with BS 7176:2007+A1:2011 [or current edition] for [Medium] Hazard, as set by the fire risk assessment dated [date], prepared by [Responsible Person or fire safety adviser]. The category is confirmed in writing before order and recorded in the FF&E schedule. A standard number alone is not enough: state the category.

COMPOSITE TEST EVIDENCE

For each upholstery composite in each item (cover, any interliner and filling; seat, back and arms separately where they differ) provide a test report from a UKAS-accredited laboratory, accredited for the tests named, for the build as supplied, showing resistance to ignition sources [0, 1 and 5]. Each report names the cover, interliner, filling and any flame-retardant treatment, and is dated within [12] months of the order. Abbreviated certificates, and certificates for the cover or the foam alone, are not accepted. Foam: the producer's current certificate to the BS 7176 filling tests. Treated covers and interliners: water soaked before testing. Route: [inherently flame-retardant yarn / back-coated / interliner].

LABEL

Each item to carry the permanent BS 7176 label for [Medium] Hazard, clearly visible, in the position shown on the approved shop drawing. Where a visible label cannot be fitted (for example a built-in banquette), the supplier proposes an alternative for approval before production: [alternative].

RE-TESTING AND CHANGES

The supplier states its re-test regime for each specification [once a month or every 2,500 units, whichever is the more practicable] and the date of the latest test. A change of cover (other than colour), pattern or construction (other than minor changes), filling, interliner or component supplier is a new composite: notify [designer] and supply a new report before production.

TERMS USED

BS 7176
The British Standard for the ignition resistance of upholstered seating in non-domestic use, in four hazard categories. BSI lists 2007+A1:2011 as current.

Hazard category
Low, Medium, High or Very High, set through the Responsible Person's fire risk assessment. Typical premises are examples only.

Responsible Person
Under the Fire Safety Order 2005: the employer, the person in control of the premises for a business or undertaking, or the owner. Not the designer or supplier.

Crib 5 and Crib 7
Trade names for flame sources 5 and 7 of BS 5852:2006 (lit wooden cribs). Medium Hazard adds source 5; High uses source 7.

Upholstery composite
The cover, any interliner and the filling, tested together. A certificate applies to that combination only.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- FIRA and BFC, Fire safety of furniture and furnishings in the contract and non-domestic sectors (2010, updated 2011): read in full 5 Nov 2026.
- BS 7176:2007+A1:2011, BS 5852:2006, BS EN 1021-1 and -2: BS 7176 and BS 5852 listed Current by BSI; paywalled, not read.
- Fire Safety Order 2005 (arts 3, 6, 9); Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988 (reg 3(1)): read 5 Nov 2026; England and Wales.
- Home Office, Fire safety risk assessment: sleeping accommodation (12 Sep 2023): read 5 Nov 2026.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/bs-7176-hazard-categories. 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.