BS EN 16139:2025 *Level 1 and Level 2* seating

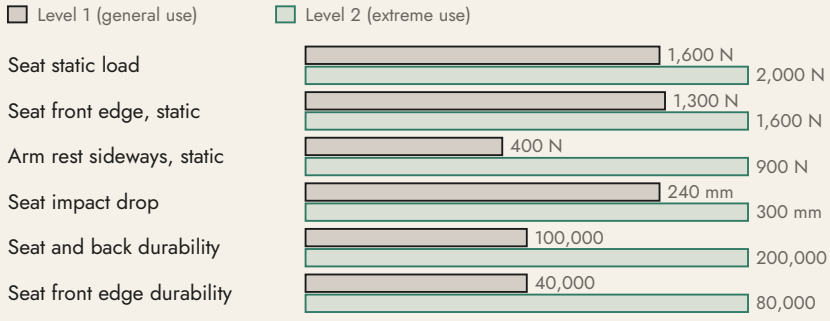
What BS EN 16139:2025 tests, what Levels 1 and 2 mean, what it leaves out, what to ask for.

Compliance guidance. This sheet summarises BS EN 16139:2025 from its contents list, European foreword, scope and first clauses, BSI and FIRA listings and two accredited test reports. The standard is paywalled and has not been read in full; check the current edition and your test house. This is guidance, not legal or engineering advice, and the studio does not certify products.

AT A GLANCE

Topic	What the 2025 edition says	Where
Edition	EN 16139:2025 supersedes EN 16139:2013. BSI lists BS EN 16139:2025 as current (published 31 August 2025) and BS EN 16139:2013 as withdrawn.	Cover; BSI listings
Scope	Safety, strength and durability of all types of non-domestic seating for adults up to 110 kg, including office visitor chairs.	Clause 1
Left out	Seating: ranked, office work, educational, outdoor, linked and industrial work chairs. Properties: durability of upholstery, castors, reclining, tilting and height mechanisms; ageing, degradation, flammability; electrical safety.	Clause 1
Level 1	General use. Examples in test reports: offices, showrooms, cafes, restaurants, canteens, banks, bars.	Annex F; test reports
Level 2	Extreme use. Examples in test reports: night-clubs, police stations, transport terminals, prisons. More severe loads and twice the cycles.	Annex F; test reports
Test methods	Strength and durability to EN 1728:2012; stability to EN 1022; finger entrapment, shear and compression in Annex A.	Clauses 2, 4; Annex A
New in 2025	Single column seating, side-to-side durability, leg rests, backward fall test, finger entrapment and shear tests; rolling resistance of unloaded chairs removed.	Foreword (a) to (k)

Clause and annex numbers are from the 2025 text (contents, foreword, scope and clauses 1 to 4.2 read). Level wording comes from test reports to the 2025 edition; Annex F itself has not been read.



Bar length: each Level 1 value as a share of the Level 2 value. Values read from two test reports, not from the standard's Table 1.

Level 1 against Level 2 for six tests, read from two accredited test reports to the 2025 edition (not from the standard's Table 1, which has not been read). Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio.

WHAT CHANGED FROM THE 2013 EDITION

- New: single column seating (with a side-to-side durability test), leg rest requirements and test, backward fall test, finger entrapment, shear and compression test methods, a method for seats of suspended flexible material.
- Removed: the rolling resistance requirement for unloaded chairs. Annexes reordered (normative first). The foreword does not itemise load or cycle changes.

WHAT TO ASK FOR

- "BS EN 16139:2025, Level 1 or 2" in the specification, for the real venue.
- The full signed report from an accredited laboratory, naming edition, level, exact model and variants, and results by clause. A report to the 2013 edition is for a withdrawn standard.
- Separate evidence for fire, upholstery wear and mechanisms. For bespoke seating, agree how it will be tested early.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

SEATING TO BS EN 16139:2025

Seating to BS EN 16139:2025, Level [1 general use / 2 extreme use]. Supplier to provide the full signed test report from a laboratory accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 for the tests, naming the edition, the level and the exact model and variants supplied, with results for each test and for information for use. [Reports to the withdrawn 2013 edition are not accepted.]

EVIDENCE OUTSIDE THE STANDARD

BS EN 16139 does not cover upholstery durability, castors, mechanisms, ageing or flammability. The supplier is to evidence separately: [fire performance of covers and filling to the project's stated standard] [upholstery abrasion to the stated standard] [mechanism test, if fitted].

BESPOKE SEATING WITHOUT A REPORT

Where a seat is bespoke and no report exists, the supplier shall [have a representative sample tested to BS EN 16139:2025 Level [1 / 2] at an accredited laboratory before production / provide [ ] as agreed with the client], and submit the report before the production order is released.

TERMS USED

Single column seating

A seat whose upper part, including the seat, is mounted on a single support up to 120 mm across at its narrowest point, for example a gas-lift chair (clause 3.6).

Leg rest

An extension of the seat area intended to support the legs of the sitter (clause 3.3). It has its own static and durability requirements in the 2025 edition.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- BS EN 16139:2025: Furniture. Safety, strength and durability. Requirements and test methods for non-domestic seating. BSI listing: published 31 August 2025, current. Text read: cover, contents, foreword, clauses 1 to 4.2.
- BS EN 16139:2013: BSI listing: withdrawn.
- EN 16139:2025 preview pages (Slovenian national adoption, sample copy): pages 1 to 9 of the standard.
- FIRA: new version of BS EN 16139 published: news item of 1 August 2025 (archived). FIRA Gold: quality mark page.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/bs-en-16139-seating-levels. 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.