Furniture *strength and durability* standards map

Strength and durability standards split by furniture type and by use (domestic or non-domestic), with test-method standards underneath. A requirements standard says what to pass; a test-method standard says how to test and sets no requirements. No test loads are quoted; editions are as listed on 5 November 2026. Check the current edition.

Compliance guidance. Standard numbers, editions and statuses come from BSI Knowledge, standards-seller and test-house listings seen on 5 November 2026. The standards are paywalled and none was read in full, so no test load, cycle count or pass criterion is quoted. Editions change: check the current edition on BSI Knowledge and agree the requirement with a furniture test house or your technical adviser. This is guidance, not legal or engineering advice.

AT A GLANCE

Furniture	Domestic use	Non-domestic use	Test methods
Seating	BS EN 12520:2024	BS EN 16139:2025, Level 1 or 2	BS EN 1728:2012; stability: BS EN 1022
Office work chairs	Not covered (office furniture)	BS EN 1335-2:2018 (dimensions: BS EN 1335-1)	BS EN 1335 series, part 3 to confirm
Tables	BS EN 12521:2023	BS EN 15372:2023	BS EN 1730:2012
Office desks	Not covered (office furniture)	BS EN 527-2:2016+A1:2019	BS EN 527-3, edition to confirm
Storage	BS EN 14749:2016+A1:2022	BS EN 16121:2023	Within BS EN 14749; for BS EN 16121 to confirm
Adult beds	BS EN 1725:2023 (domestic and non-domestic)	BS EN 1725:2023	BS EN 1957:2012
Bunk and high beds	BS EN 747-1 and -2 (named, to confirm)	BS EN 747-1 and -2 (named, to confirm)	BS EN 747-2
Outdoor seating and tables	BS EN 581-1:2017 (camping, domestic and contract use)	BS EN 581-1:2017	BS EN 581-2 seating, 581-3 tables, editions to confirm
Ranked and educational seating	Not covered	BS EN 12727; BS EN 1729-2 (named, to confirm)	Within those standards
Glass in tables	Within BS EN 12521 (scope includes glass)	Within BS EN 15372 (scope includes glass)	Glass itself: check separately
Finishes and fabric wear	Not in any of the above	Not in any of the above	Surface tests EN 12720, 12721, 12722, 15186; fabric: EN ISO 12947-2 (named)

Editions as listed on 5 November 2026 (BSI Knowledge, or a standards seller where marked in the editions table). 'Named, to confirm' means a test house names the standard but its role and edition were not checked. Every edition changes: check before you specify.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

EVIDENCE CLAUSE, ANY PRODUCT TYPE

[Product type] is to be supplied with the full signed test report from a laboratory accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 for the tests named, showing compliance with [standard number and edition] [at Level / severity] for the exact model and variants supplied, dated within [ ] months of order. Reports to a withdrawn edition, or for a different model, are not accepted. The designer will confirm the current edition on the BSI website before order and the supplier is to be told of any change.

NON-DOMESTIC SEATING, TABLES, STORAGE AND BEDS

Seating to BS EN 16139:2025, Level [1 general use / 2 extreme use]. Tables to BS EN 15372:2023 [at the test severity agreed with the client]. Storage to BS EN 16121:2023. Beds to BS EN 1725:2023. [Edition and status to be re-checked on BSI Knowledge before order.] Each is evidenced as in the evidence clause. Fire, upholstery wear, finishes and mechanisms are specified separately.

OFFICE, OUTDOOR AND DOMESTIC ITEMS

Office work chairs to BS EN 1335-2 [edition], office desks to BS EN 527-2 [edition], outdoor seating and tables to BS EN 581-1 with BS EN 581-2 (seating) and BS EN 581-3 (tables) [editions to be confirmed], domestic seating to BS EN 12520 [edition], domestic tables to BS EN 12521 [edition]. Each is evidenced as in the evidence clause.

BESPOKE ITEM WITH NO EXISTING REPORT

Where an item is bespoke and no report exists, the supplier shall [have a representative sample tested to [standard and edition] [Level / severity] at an accredited laboratory before production / provide [ ] as agreed with the client] and submit the report before the production order is released. Cost and programme for the test are to be agreed before order.

TERMS USED

Requirements standard

A standard that says what a product must pass for one type of furniture in one kind of use, for example BS EN 16139 for non-domestic seating. It usually calls up a test-method standard for how to test.

Test-method standard

A standard that says how to carry out a test, such as BS EN 1728 for seating. On its BSI listing it sets no requirements, so a specification names the requirements standard as well.

Non-domestic furniture

Furniture for use outside the home, in hotels, restaurants, bars, offices and similar premises. The standards listings read do not define the term, so the client and test house decide how mixed premises are treated.

BS EN 15372

The standard for the safety, strength and durability of tables for use outside the home, including tables with glass. Office desks, school tables and outdoor tables have their own standards.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- BSI Knowledge listings (status, title and scope as seen 5 November 2026): BS EN 1728:2012, 1730:2012, 12521:2023, 527-2:2016+A1:2019, 14749:2016+A1:2022, 16121:2023, 1725:2023, 581-1:2017, 1335-2:2018, 16139:2025, and the withdrawn editions of 12520, 15372, 16121 and 1022.
- Standards-seller listings: BS EN 12520:2024, BS EN 15372:2023 and BS EN 1022:2023: not seen on BSI.
- FIRA test-house pages: seating, tables and desking, storage, bed and mattress testing: used only to name standards.
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, section 6: read 5 November 2026, revised text.
- General Product Safety Regulations 2005, regulations 5 and 6: read 5 November 2026, revised text (Great Britain version).

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/furniture-strength-and-durability-standards-map. 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.