



British Contract Furnishing Association

Angela Patison of Tektura says "Wallcoverings – need some guidance through the fire rating maze?"

In summary, we've got one set of fire regulations for the UK, and two testing systems – British and European. Both systems are valid until a 'standard' for wallcoverings is published and made mandatory. Opinion varies as to when this will happen (some think five years minimum) but after that, British tests/reports will no longer be accepted within the UK/Europe.

Meanwhile, interior designers and specifiers need to specify the correct wallcovering for its end use. To find out what fire classification needs to be check Table 10 Approved Document B 'Fire Safety', to Building Regulations 2000. Wallcoverings specified for fire escape routes or public areas must achieve either a British Class '0' fire rating or it's equivalent European Class 'B'. It is essential designers/specifiers specify to correct classification of wallcovering for each application. The British system measures flame spread and heat release; products are classified 0, 1, 2, and 3 etc, with 0 being the highest. The European system is similar, with products classified A1, A2, B, C, D, E or F with A1 being the highest. Smoke production and flaming droplets are also measured: smoke production is classified as s1, s2, s3 (s1 is the lowest) and flaming droplets as d0, d1, d2 (d0 being zero droplets). A classification of s3, d2 means there's no limit for smoke production or flaming droplets. Existing Class '0' is roughly equivalent to European Class 'B'.

"Manufacturers are already testing products for compliance with the European system in preparation for the 'hand-over'. Products failing the British Standard methods may pass the European tests, or vice versa. Eventually, the European classification system will be used by all EU member states and should simplify specification and associated testing."

The full version of this text can be found on www.tekturaonline.com. For more information, contact the BCFA or Warrington Fire Research via www.wfrc.co.uk

Out & about

On behalf of UK Trade & Investment, the BCFA is taking over 30 companies to Index in Dubai (7-11 November), which will be well worth a visit for anyone interested in this burgeoning market.

The BCFA can offer UKTI grants of £1,800 to eligible UK companies to help them attend selected overseas exhibitions.

Membership matters

Welcome aboard to the following new BCFA members: Tektura plc; The Chair Company; Joynson Holland; Fileturn Ltd and Sky Creations.



Dorchester calling

With its opportunities for networking in a relaxed, social setting, the annual BCFA lunch at the Dorchester has become a firm fixture in the industry's calendar. This year the event will take place on Thursday 2 November, with sponsors including Interior Industries International. Tickets are £125 + vat per person.

Points of Contact

British Contract Furnishing Association (BCFA)
Project House, 25 West Wycombe Road, High Wycombe
Buckinghamshire, HP11 2LQ.
Tel: 01494 896790 Fax: 01494 896799
E-mail: enquiries@bcfa.org.uk
Website: www.thebcfa.com