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BSI Standards Publication

Furniture — Safety, strength and durability — Requirements and test methods for non-domestic seating

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National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN 16139:2025. It supersedes BS EN 16139:2013, which is withdrawn.

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A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

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NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

July 2025

ICS 97.140

Supersedes EN 16139:2013

English Version

Furniture - Safety, strength and durability - Requirements and test methods for non-domestic seating

Mobilier - Sécurité, résistance et durabilité - Exigences et méthodes d'essai applicables aux sièges à usage non domestique

Möbel - Sicherheit, Festigkeit und Dauerhaltbarkeit - Anforderungen und Prüfverfahren für Sitzmöbel für den Nicht-Wohnbereich

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COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION
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European foreword

This document (EN 16139:2025) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 207 “Furniture”, the secretariat of which is held by UNI.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by January 2026, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by January 2026.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document will supersede EN 16139:2013.

EN 16139:2025 includes the following significant technical changes with respect to EN 16139:2013:

a) introduction of definition and requirements for single column seating;

b) the order of the annexes has been changed, with the normative annexes being placed before the informative;

c) changes to Annex C (informative) in terms of recommended dimensions;

d) introduction of “side to side” durability requirements for “single column seating” and “side to side” test method in Annex B (normative);

e) new Annex H (informative) new rationale for “single column seating”;

f) new Annex A (normative) Test methods for finger entrapment and shear and compression;

g) removal of requirement for rolling resistance of unloaded chairs;

h) new introduction of “leg rest” static requirement;

i) new Annex C (normative) introduction of “leg rest” durability requirement with a “leg rest” test method;

j) introduction of “backward fall test” requirement;

k) new Annex D (normative) Determination of seat loading point for seating with suspended flexible material.

Any feedback and questions on this document should be directed to the users’ national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found on the CEN website.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organisations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye and the United Kingdom.

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1 Scope

This document specifies requirements for the safety, strength and durability of all types of non-domestic seating intended to be used by adults with a weight of not more than 110 kg, including office visitor chairs.

This document does not apply to ranked seating, office work chairs, chairs for educational institutions, outdoor seating and to links for linked seating for which other European Standards exist. It does also not apply to work chairs for industrial use.

This document does not include requirements for the durability of upholstery materials, castors, reclining and tilting mechanisms and seat height adjustment mechanisms.

This document does not include requirements for the resistance to ageing, degradation and flammability.

This document does not include requirements for electrical safety.

Annex A (normative) contains test methods for finger entrapment and shear and compression.

Annex B (normative) contains a seat side-to-side durability test at D-G points.

Annex C (normative) contains a test method for Leg rest durability.

Annex D (normative) contains the determination of seat loading point for seating with suspended flexible material.

Annex E (informative) contains additional drop tests.

Annex F (informative) contains information on the level of test severity in relation to applications.

Annex G (informative) contains recommended dimensions for non-domestic chairs.

Annex H (informative) contains a rationale for single column seating.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 1022, *Furniture — Seating — Determination of stability*

EN 1728:2012, *Furniture — Seating — Test methods for the determination of strength and durability*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

3.1
accessible part
part to which access can easily be gained by the user when the seating is in its intended configuration of use and for which the probability of unintentional user contact is high

3.2
castors
assembly comprising a housing, one or more wheels and at least one axes