



The BSI Kitemark™ for Domestic Furniture



Client guide to testing and assessment

bsi.

...making excellence a habit.™

Prove that your furniture is durable and gain customer trust with the BSI Kitemark™

By achieving a Domestic Furniture Kitemark, you'll be able to prove to your customers that your products have been manufactured with great care and skill, in an environment with rigorous process controls, to the highest standards. **Trusted by 67% of UK consumers**, the BSI Kitemark is a way to demonstrate quality and distinguish your organization from the competition.

Exclusive to BSI, this BSI Kitemark covers domestic furniture products including:

- Recliners
- Sofas and sofa-beds
- Beds
- Mattresses

This guide provides you with the information, specification and requirements you need to meet to achieve BSI Kitemark certification.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with one of our advisors who will be able to provide expert information:

Call: **+44 (0)345 0765 606** or
email: **kitemark@bsigroup.com**

How to achieve a BSI Kitemark for domestic furniture



The Domestic Furniture Kitemark certification is based on compliance with three core standards (explained later in this guide). These depend on your product range – for example beds and mattresses are tested differently to sofas and recliners to reflect their different functional uses.

There are three main parts the BSI Kitemark assessment:

1 Factory process control – our expert auditors will assess your manufacturing facilities, including outsourced processes, to ensure that Factory Process Controls are effective at consistently producing products of the right quality, durability and safety specification. This will be done a minimum of twice a year.

2 Technical review – we'll review the technical files, test reports and test certificates to validate that your products have been tested to the correct standards by accredited laboratories.

3 Sample product testing – we'll select random samples of each product type to be independently tested for their strength, durability and safety. This is usually done a minimum of once per year.

Please read on for detailed explanations of the process.

Factory process control

The product manufacturer must demonstrate effective factory process controls (FPC) using a quality management system (QMS) based on ISO 9001:2015. It isn't mandatory for this to be independently certified as BSI will assess the FPC during the Kitemark certification process.

The following points are guidelines, the full requirements are specified in ISO 9001:2015:

- Testing, weighing and measuring equipment shall be calibrated and regularly inspected
- Manufacturing equipment shall be inspected and maintained
- Specifications for incoming materials and components shall be documented and materials and components shall be inspected
- The manufacturing process shall be documented, identifying individuals responsible
- Records shall be kept of checks, their results and corrective actions. Records of competency of staff shall be maintained
- You shall establish procedures for the inspection of parts within the manufacturing process and of finished items
- You shall have procedures for dealing with non-conforming products
- Complaints shall be managed and recorded

Product testing standards and methods

Products need to meet the specifications contained within the standards in the table below, and at Level 1 or above for BS EN 16139:2013.

You'll need to ensure the products are independently tested in accredited laboratories against these standards

(as relevant to your product range) before the Kitemark certification process starts.

Standard	Description
All	Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988, as amended
Recliners	BS 8474:2013 Furniture – Chairs with electrically operated support surfaces – Requirements
	Using test methods specified in:
	BS EN 13759:2012 Furniture — Operating mechanisms for seating and sofa-beds — Test methods
Recliners, sofas, and sofa-beds	BS EN 16139:2013 Furniture. Strength, durability and safety. Requirements for non-domestic seating
	Using test methods specified in:
	BS EN 1022: 2005 Domestic furniture. Seating. Determination of stability
	BS EN 1728:2012 Furniture. Seating. Test methods for the determination of strength and durability
	BS EN 12520:2015 Furniture. Strength, durability and safety. Requirements for domestic seating
Sofa beds and mattresses	BS EN 1725:1998 Domestic furniture - Beds and mattresses Safety requirements and test methods

Product definition

You, as the manufacturer, will need to group your products into defined families with similar characteristics. A product family is based on the frame design, and whether the fabric is leather or non-leather – for example a range of ten sofas using a common frame and filling would be classed as a single product family.

Sample testing, review and assessment

Type testing

You must declare the range of products to be approved. Your BSI scheme manager will confirm which products are to be tested – this is normally the largest size within a family. We'll rotate the selection to cover the full range as frequently as possible.

Sample

A piece of furniture representing one product per family needs to be provided, including accessories, packaging, instructions and drawings for type testing.

The test samples may be selected by BSI or the manufacturer. If the manufacturer selects the samples then a declaration must be provided confirming that the samples are from present normal production.

Documentation requirements

Instructions, product drawings and any other relevant documentation will also need to be provided to us for technical review.

Assessment visit

We'll carry out regular on-site assessment visits to confirm the product still conforms, and verify your compliance if it continues to meet the standards set.



Schedule of testing and assessment visits

Type and audit testing shall consist of all clauses relevant to the product, with the comments noted in the tables below.

Sofas – Test and Assessment Schedule:

- Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988 as amended
- BS EN 12520: 2015
- BS EN 16139: 2013 Table 1 Level 1

Clause	Content	Test	Assessment visit	Comments
	Fire Regulation	√	√	Nil
5.1/4.1	General requirement	√	√	Manufacturer's declaration. Assessor to check Assessor to check. Test labs to report on visual assessment of matched components
5.2/4.2	Shear and squeeze points	√	√	Manufacturer's declaration. Assessor to check
5.3/4.3	Stability	√	√	Test house for information only. Assessor to check QMS
5.4/5	Strength and durability	√	x	Test house and manufacturer to provide certificate of conformity for assessor
6/7	Information for use	√	x	Nil

Recliners – Test and Assessment Schedule:

- As above for sofas, plus
- BS 8474:2013

Clause	Content	Test	Assessment visit	Comments
5.2	Durability of Chair surface adjustment mechanism	√	√	Test house to ensure products passes after 20,000 cycles

Sofa beds – Test and Assessment Schedule:

- As above for sofas, plus
- BS EN 1725:1998

Clause	Content	Test	Assessment visit	Comments
7.2	Stability	√	√	Nil
7.3	Durability	√	√	Nil
7.4	Vertical impact test	√	√	Nil
7.5	Durability of bed edge	√	√	Nil
7.6	Vertical static load test	√	√	Nil
7.7	Vertical static load test of the edge of the bed	√	√	Nil

Why BSI?



bsi.

“The BSI Kitemark is a highly recognized mark of quality which consumers know they can trust. In fact, 58% of British consumers emphasise that the BSI Kitemark is a believable indication of quality and 8 in 10 consumers highlight British Standards as important.”

Natasha Bambridge, UK Product Certification Director, BSI



About BSI

BSI is the business improvement company that enables organizations to turn standards of best practice into habits of excellence. For over a century BSI has championed what good looks like and driven best practice in organizations around the world. Working with over 86,000 clients across 193 countries, it is a truly international business with skills and experience across a number of sectors including automotive, aerospace, built environment, food, and healthcare. Through its expertise in Standards Development and Knowledge Solutions, Assurance and Professional Services, BSI improves business performance to help clients grow sustainably, manage risk and ultimately be more resilient.

To learn more, please visit: [bsigroup.com](https://www.bsigroup.com)

bsi.

Find out more

Call: +44 (0)345 0765 606

Email: kitemark@bsigroup.com

Visit: [bsigroup.com/furniturekm-uk](https://www.bsigroup.com/furniturekm-uk)