

**Specification for**

**Fire safety features of  
camping tents, awnings, trailer  
tents and caravan awnings**

ICS 97.200.30

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 Anglo-Scottish Fish Producers' Organization Ltd.  
 British Apparel and Textile Confederation  
 British Polyolefin Textiles Association  
 Camping and Caravanning Club Ltd.  
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The following bodies were also represented in the drafting of the standard, through subcommittees and panels:

Caravan Club  
 Chemical Industries Association  
 Department of Trade and Industry (Consumer Safety Unit, CA Division)  
 Ministry of Defence  
 National Caravan Council Limited

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## Foreword

This British Standard has been prepared by Technical Committee TCI/68. It supersedes BS 5576 : 1985, which is withdrawn.

This British Standard specifies requirements for the fire safety of camping tents, awnings, trailer tents and caravan awnings. Tent fires are rare, but when they do occur, they can be serious and some have resulted in fatalities. This revision states flammability requirements for cooking areas and provides for clear safety advice to be permanently attached in a position where it can be easily seen by users. This advice now requires manufacturers who have included fire-retardant materials in tent construction to declare the class achieved, based on the classification system in BS 6341 : 1983.

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### Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 and 2, an inside back cover and a back cover.

# Specification

## 1 Scope

This British Standard specifies requirements for fire safety features in relation to materials used, provision of means of escape from and advice to users of camping tents, awnings, trailer tents and caravan awnings. The requirements apply to all camping tents, awnings, trailer tents and caravan awnings intended for temporary or seasonal occupation, but do not apply to marquees.

## 2 Normative references

This British Standard incorporates, by dated or undated reference, provisions from other publications. These normative references are made at the appropriate places in the text and the cited publications are listed on the inside back cover. For dated references, only the edition cited applies; any subsequent amendments to or revisions of the publications apply to this British Standard only when incorporated in the reference by amendment or revision. For undated references, the latest edition of the cited publication applies, together with any amendments.

## 3 Terms and definitions

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

### 3.1 leisure accommodation unit (LAU)

Unit of living accommodation designed for temporary or seasonal occupation.

### 3.2 camping tent

LAU designed for overnight accommodation and comprising a collapsible framed or supported weather-resistant structure made from fabric materials.

### 3.3 marquee

LAU not designed for overnight accommodation and comprising a collapsible framed or supported weather-resistant structure made from fabric materials.

### 3.4 awning

Collapsible framed or supported weather-resistant structure that is used with an LAU to extend its living area.

### 3.5 trailer tent (including a folding camper)

LAU comprising a collapsible framed or supported weather-resistant structure incorporating fabric materials mounted on a trailer which may or may not be designed to meet the requirements for the construction and use of road vehicles.

### 3.6 caravan awning

Awning designed for use with a caravan.

## 4 Fabrics

The walls, roof and all other materials of a specifically designated cooking area shall be of flame-retardant material conforming to grade 5 of BS 6341.

NOTE. Flammability performance for fabrics used in camping tents, awnings, trailer tents and caravan awnings is described by grades 5 to 7 of BS 6341.

## 5 Means of escape

**5.1** Exits for large tents of more than four berths shall provide an exit of minimum width 0.5 m and minimum area 0.9 m<sup>2</sup>. For small tents, the area of exits shall be not less than 0.25 m<sup>2</sup> with a minimum dimension in any one direction of 0.45 m.

**5.2** Tents, awnings, trailer tents and caravan awnings having a total internal floor area of 12 m<sup>2</sup> or more shall have at least two exits. Exits shall be not less than 2.5 m apart.

**5.3** Where more than one exit is provided, the exits which are not intended as openings for normal access to the tents may be in the form of slide fasteners, rip-cords or similar arrangements intended only to be used in cases of emergency.

**5.4** All slide fasteners and similar devices used for exits (and also any openings into inner tents) shall be fitted in such a way that a puller is located at the bottom of the exit when closed to allow rapid exit in an emergency. This puller shall be double sided, i.e. capable of being operated from both sides of the exit when closed, shall be constructed so that it can be gripped and shall have a coloured handle or other means to enable it to be located.

**5.5** Exits both for normal and secondary emergency use shall be clearly identified by some form of marking, e.g. a coloured panel, coloured slide fasteners, rogue yarns or banding.

NOTE. Attention should be paid to the ready identification of the method of opening the exit as well as to the method of operation of the fastener.

**5.6** A permanent sewn-in label shall be attached in a prominent position in each sleeping compartment. The label shall carry the words 'KEEP EXITS CLEAR'.

## 6 Advice to occupiers

A permanent, legible notice giving simple fire prevention advice shall be attached in a position where it can be easily and readily seen. This applies irrespective of the grade of fabric used, i.e. to both flame resistant and non-flame resistant types.

The wording and layout of the notice shall be as given in figure 1.

## List of references (see clause 2)

### Normative references

#### BSI publications

BRITISH STANDARDS INSTITUTION, London

BS 6341 : 1983

*Specification for fabrics for camping tents*

## List of references (see clause 2)

### Normative references

#### BSI publications

BRITISH STANDARDS INSTITUTION, London

BS 6341 : 1983

*Specification for fabrics for camping tents*

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