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BS 5866 :

Part 1 : 1990

(1991A)

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# Blankets suitable for use in the public sector

## Part 1. Specification for wool and wool/polyamide blankets

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# Committees responsible for this British Standard

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The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by the Textiles and Clothing Standards Policy Committee (TCM/-) to Technical Committee TCM/1, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- British Clothing Industry Association
- British Railways Board
- British Textile Employers' Association
- British Textile Technology Group
- Consumer Policy Committee of BSI
- Department of Health
- Flax and Linen Association (GB)
- Home and Contract Furnishing Textiles Association
- Man-made Fibres Producers' Committee
- Ministry of Defence
- Textile Research Council (FCRA)
- Textile Services Association Ltd.

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Textiles and Clothing Standards Policy Committee, was published under the authority of the Board of BSI and comes into effect on 30 September 1990

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### Amendments issued since publication

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The following BSI references relate to the work on this standard:  
 Committee reference TCM/1  
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## Foreword

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This Part of BS 5866 has been prepared under the direction of the Textiles and Clothing Standards Policy Committee and supersedes BS 5866 : Part 1 : 1980 which is withdrawn.

BS 5866 specifies requirements for a range of blanket types suitable for use in the public sector and is published in four Parts as follows:

- Part 1. Specification for wool and wool/polyamide blankets
- Part 2. Specification for cotton leno cellular blankets
- Part 3. Specification for synthetic fibre cellular blankets
- Part 4<sup>1)</sup>. Flammability

In this Part, requirements are specified for blankets made entirely from new wool, grey wool blankets and blankets comprising fibre blends of new wool and staple polyamide.

BS 5866 covers only the basic description of the products and their construction and performance requirements. Purchasing authorities therefore may need to include additional information.

Many properties cannot be specified objectively and cannot therefore be included in this standard. Examples of such properties include colour, handle, appearance, extent of raising and details of additional design features. Public sector purchasing authorities may be able to supply standard patterns which cover these properties and thereby serve to resolve any ambiguities of description.

This Part of BS 5866 differs from the previous edition in that revised requirements are specified for the all-wool blanket. The previous edition included requirements that were contained in BS 1681 (which was withdrawn on publication of BS 5866 : Part 1 : 1980) except that the values were metricated and rounded upwards. In the preparation of this edition of Part 1 of BS 5866 it was considered that the construction and performance requirements for the all-wool blanket should be realigned with that of BS 1681.

Requirements for flame-retardant blankets will be included in this Part of BS 5866 on publication of Part 4.

Appendix A gives a method for determining dimensional change on washing and Appendix B gives guidance on information to be supplied by the purchaser.

**Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.** In particular, attention is drawn to Statutory Instrument 1986 No. 26, the Textile Products (Indications of Fibre Content) Regulations 1986.

<sup>1)</sup> In preparation.

# Specification

## 1 Scope

This Part of BS 5866 specifies requirements for woven wool and woven wool/polyamide blankets intended for use in the public sector. It deals with the composition, manufacture, make-up, dimensions and colour of the blankets. Values are prescribed for percentage fibre content and mass per unit area, threads per unit length in warp and weft, breaking strength, dimensional change on washing and colour fastness.

NOTE. The titles of the publications referred to in this standard are listed on the inside back cover.

## 2 Definitions

For the purposes of this Part of BS 5866, the definitions given in BS 6189 apply, together with the following.

### 2.1 lot

The total number of blankets included in any part delivery of the bulk.

### 2.2 bulk

The total number of blankets included in the contract of supply.

## 3 Composition

### 3.1 New wool blankets

New wool blankets shall be composed entirely of new wool. The blankets shall be designated as follows.

- A: blankets unraised, with shrink-resistant and flame-retardant finishes;
- B: blankets raised, without a shrink-resistant finish;
- C: blankets raised, with a shrink-resistant finish.

### 3.2 Grey wool blankets

Grey wool blankets shall contain a minimum of 95 % wool.

### 3.3 Wool/polyamide blankets

Wool/polyamide blankets shall have warp and weft yarns composed of fibre blends containing a minimum of 70 % new wool, the remainder being 6.7 dtex, 60 mm staple-fibre polyamide.

Table 1. Properties					
Property	Finish	New wool	Grey wool	Wool/polyamide	Test method
Mass per unit area, g/m <sup>2</sup> (min.)	-	475	475	380	BS 2471, method 3 <sup>1)</sup>
No. of threads per cm (min.)					BS 2862 <sup>2)</sup>
Warp	-	7	7	7	
Weft	-	8	8	8	
Breaking strength, N (min.)					BS 2576 <sup>2)</sup>
Warp	-	230	230	270	
Weft	-	170	170	230	
Dimensional change on washing (max. % in either direction)	Non-shrink resistant	± 10 % after 5 wash/dry cycles	± 10 % after 5 wash/dry cycles	± 5 % after 3 wash/dry cycles	Appendix A
	Shrink resistant	± 5 % after 3 wash/dry cycles	-	-	

<sup>1)</sup> Except that the results are expressed to the nearest 5 g/m<sup>2</sup>.  
<sup>2)</sup> Except that five warp and five weft specimens are tested.

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## 4 Manufacture

The blankets shall be woven in a plain weave.

The mass per unit area, number of warp and weft threads per unit length, breaking strength and dimensional change on washing shall be as given in table 1.

NOTE. 1. Yarns should be evenly spun, the weave should be uniform with firm and straight selvages and raising should be even.

NOTE. 2. No requirements for treatment against moths are specified but interested parties may agree as to whether the blankets should be treated and if so on the type of such treatment.

BS 4797 includes a method of test for resistance of textiles against the common clothes moth, and BS 2087 : Part 1 includes preservative treatments for protection against moths.

## 5 Make-up

### 5.1 Stitching

With the exception of cot blankets, blankets shall be either turned 15 mm and stitched at both ends only or turned 15 mm and stitched all round.

Cot blankets shall be turned 15 mm and stitched all round.

NOTE. Stitching is intended to prevent fraying.

### 5.2 Dimensions

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The dimensions of the blanket shall be as given in table 2 when determined as described in BS 5129.

NOTE. BS 5129 gives a range of recommended dimensions for blankets not specifically intended for use in the public sector.

**Table 2. Dimensions**

Width <sup>1)</sup>	Length <sup>2)</sup>
cm	cm
75	100
150	200
160	210
180	240
230	250
± 3 %	
<sup>1)</sup> The test method for width is given in BS 1930 except that the measurements are taken to within ± 1.0 cm. <sup>2)</sup> The test method for length is given in BS 1931 except that the measurements are taken to within ± 1.0 cm. NOTE. It is recommended that grey wool blankets are 160 cm wide by 210 cm long.	

## 6 Colour

### 6.1 Range of colours

6.1.1 With the exception of grey wool blankets, blankets shall be either natural wool coloured or dyed.

NOTE. Interested parties may agree upon the colour.

6.1.2 Grey wool blankets shall be grey or grey/brown only.

### 6.2 Colour fastness

The colour fastness of dyed blankets including the stitching thread shall be as given in table 3.

## 7 Flammability

Where flammability performance is specified, blankets shall comply with Part 4 of this British Standard.

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6732**Table 3. Colour fastness (see note)**

Agency	New wool (minimum rating)	Wool/polyamide (minimum rating)	Test method
Light	4	4	BS 1006 : section B02
Washing change in colour staining	4 3-4	4 4-5	BS 1006 : section C02 <sup>1)</sup>
Peroxide bleaching change in colour staining	4 4	- -	BS 1006 : section N02
Rubbing wet staining dry staining	- -	4 5	BS 1006 : section X12
<sup>1)</sup> Except that blankets intended for hospital use are tested in accordance with BS 1006 : section C03 at 70 °C. NOTE. Colour fastness is not a requirement for grey wool blankets.			

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**8 Sampling and testing**

**8.1 Selection and size of samples**

**8.1.1 Inspection lot and test sample**

A sampling scheme equivalent to at least one in every 3000 blankets shall be used.

NOTE. Interested parties may agree on more frequent testing.

**8.1.2 Test specimens**

Test specimens shall be taken at points as widely dispersed as possible throughout the available test samples, and no two specimens used for the determination of a particular property shall contain the same warp or weft threads.

In the case of multi-coloured samples all colours shall be represented by the specimens selected for colour fastness testing in accordance with table 3.

**8.2 Test procedures**

**8.2.1 Determination of fibre content**

One specimen from each blanket in the test sample shall be tested in accordance with the appropriate method in BS 4407.

**8.2.2 Colour fastness**

One specimen from each blanket in the test sample shall be tested by the methods given in table 3.

**8.3 Criteria of compliance**

If any test sample complies with the relevant requirements of clauses 3 to 6 and tables 1, 2, and, where appropriate, with table 3 of this standard, the inspection lot from which it was drawn shall be deemed to comply with this Part of BS 5866.

**9 Marking**

Blankets shall be supplied with the following information, e.g. on a label or swing ticket or on an accompanying invoice or other document:

- (a) the manufacturer's name, trademark or other means of identification;
- (b) the composition and, where relevant, the designation (see clause 3);
- (c) the number and date of this British Standard, i.e. BS 5866 : Part 1 : 1990<sup>1)</sup>;
- (d) any other marking as the contract or order may direct.

Where flammability requirements are specified, blankets shall be marked with details in accordance with BS 5866 : Part 4.

<sup>1)</sup> Marking BS 5866 : Part 1 : 1990 on or in relation to a product represents a manufacturer's declaration of conformity, i.e. a claim by or on behalf of the manufacturer that the product meets the requirements of the standard. The accuracy of the claim is therefore solely the responsibility of the person making the claim. Such a declaration is not to be confused with third party certification of conformity, which may also be desirable.

## Appendices

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### Appendix A. Determination of dimensional change on washing

#### A.1 General

Cut two, uncreased specimens from each test sample, approximately 50 cm × 50 cm with the edges of the specimens parallel to the warp and weft threads. Test the specimens in accordance with BS 4931 using the appropriate washing procedure given in A.2 of this standard and drying procedure E of BS 4923 : 1980 with the exhaust from the drum, set at a temperature not exceeding 70 °C.

Carry out the appropriate number of washing/drying cycles as indicated in table 1.

#### A.2 Washing procedure

##### A.2.1 Blankets not intended for hospital use

Wash, rinse and spin in accordance with procedure 7A of BS 4923 : 1980, with a total air dry mass of fabric of  $2 \pm 0.2$  kg and using the IEC or ECE reference detergent.

##### A.2.2 Blankets intended for hospital use

Wash, rinse and spin in accordance with 6.5.2 of BS 5651 : 1989.

### Appendix B. Information to be supplied by the purchaser

The following should be detailed in the purchaser's tenders or orders:

- (a) the fibre composition and finish as given in clause 3 and in the case of new wool blankets the designation A, B or C (see 3.1);
- (b) the dimensions (see 5.2);
- (c) whether the blankets are to be natural wool, coloured or dyed and if they are to be the latter, the colour (see 6.1);
- (d) whether treatment against moths is required, and if so the nature of such treatment (see clause 4);
- (e) whether the blankets are intended for hospital use (see table 3 and appendix A);
- (f) identification marks if required.