

Ladder Standards

Where are we and where are we going?

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Who am I?

Peter Greenwood

Programme Manager, International Secretariats

Secretary of 17 CEN and ISO committees

- wide range of subject/product areas
 - Ladders (User instructions & loft ladders/attic stairs)
 - Water supply
 - Head protection
 - Flexible sheets for waterproofing
 - Baths and shower trays
 - Tea
 - Construction sealants
 - Sports surfaces
 - Road cargo

Objectives

To present an overview of:

1. British Standards,
2. the standardization process,
3. British Standards for ladders
 - Where we are
 - How we got here
 - Where we go next

British Standards

- World's oldest National Standards Body (1901)
- Founder members of ISO and CEN
- 2 753 standards published 2006
- Over 25 000 current British Standards
- c.6 000 current standards projects
- c.1 300 UK committees
- 218 European and international secretariats
- c.7 300 committee members

What is a Standard?

A Standard

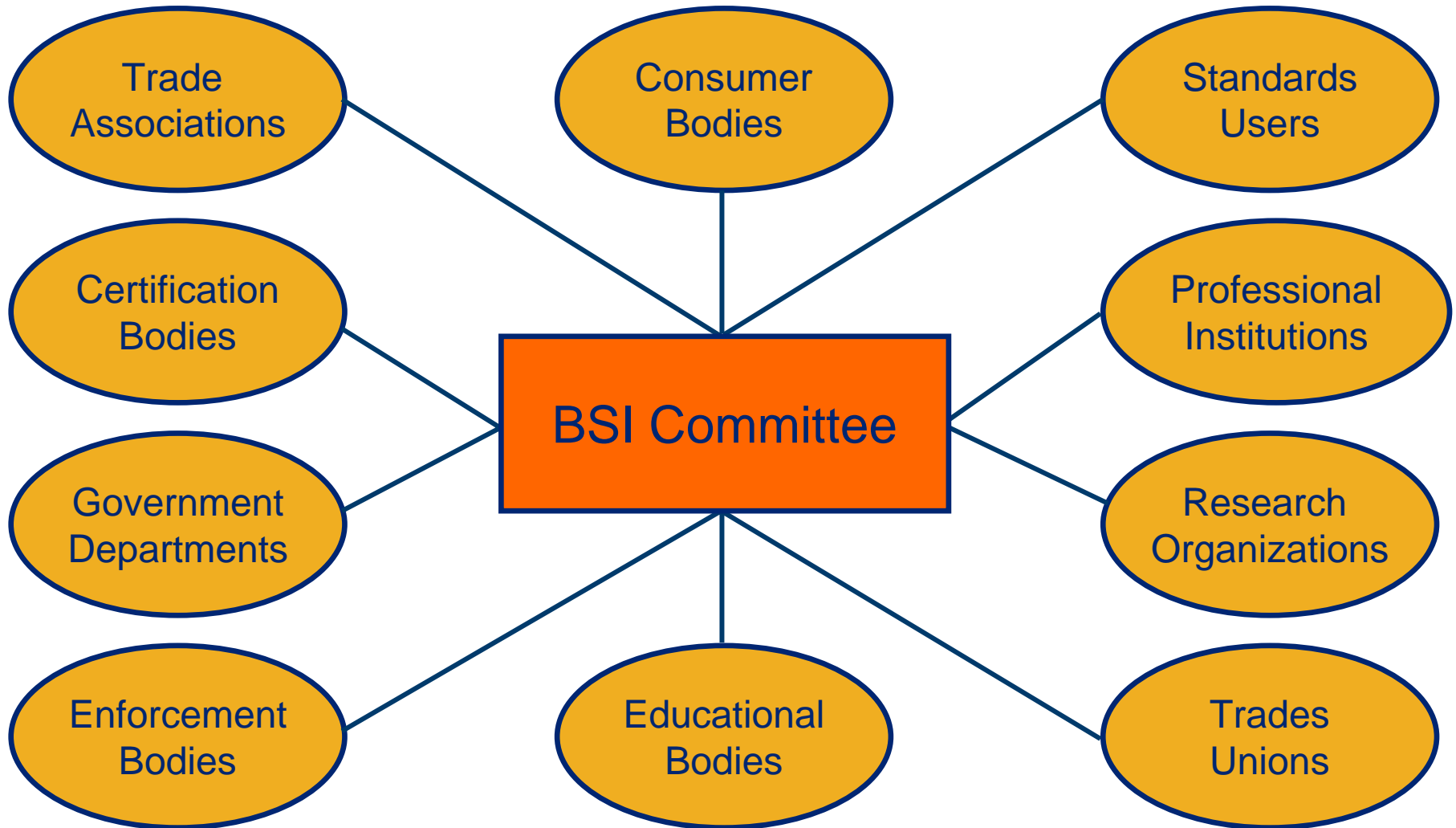
is a document, established by consensus and approved by a recognized body, that provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their results, aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in a given context.

defines clear and unambiguous provisions in order to facilitate trade and communication.

Development of a Standard

1. Initiation - new work item
2. Drafting - consensus building among experts
3. Public consultation - Enquiry
4. Technical comment review and draft amendment
5. Approval – yes/no
6. Publication
7. Review

Who provides the input?



Current British Standards

Class 1	BS 2037	Aluminium
	BS 1129	Wood
EN 131 -1: 1993	Terms, types, sizes	
EN 131 -2: 1993	Requirements, testing, marking	
Class 3	BS 2037	Aluminium
	BS 1129	Wood

This will change when BSI publish the revised EN 131 -1 along with the new EN 131 -3 and EN 131 -4

Revision of EN 131

UK believed that EN 131 was in need of revision

CEN/TC 93 was dormant

UK campaigned to have TC 93 re-activated and EN 131 revised

Mandate from the European Commission

- Classes
- Stability (foreseeable misuse – GPSD)
- Performance based testing
- Testing representative of use
- User instructions
- Accessories

Work started in 1999

EN 131

EN 131 -1

- Revised text will be published as EN 131 -1: 2007
- EN 131 -1 1993 will be withdrawn

EN 131 -2

- Revision did not pass Formal Vote
- 1993 version stays in place

EN 131 -3

- New Standard for user instructions
- Intended for EN 131 ladders

EN 131 -4

- New Standard for multi-hinge EN 131 ladders
- Difficult to see how it is different from EN 131 -1

Revised British Standards position

Class 1	BS 2037	Aluminium
	BS 1129	Wood
EN 131 -1: 2007	Terms, types, sizes	
EN 131 -2: 1993	Requirements, tests, marking	
EN 131 -3: 2007	User instructions	
EN 131 -4: 2007	Multi-hinge ladders	
Class 3	BS 2037	Aluminium
	BS 1129	Wood

Note: BS 2037 & BS 1129 (Classes 1 & 3) not changed

UK view

- The Mandate has not been fulfilled
- The revision of EN 131 was poorly managed
- EN 131 does not meet the requirements of the GPSD
- EN 131 presents a barrier to innovation
- EN 131 presents a barrier to trade
- UK committed to two classes in EN 131
- Further work is needed:
 - Definition of classes
 - Tests to address stability
 - Tests to address durability
 - Removal of material restrictions (performance tests)
 - Tests to distinguish classes

CEN/TC 93 situation

- Task Group formed to address outstanding issues
 - Classification of ladders (inc. durability)
 - Performance tests
 - Stability issues
 - Accessories for ladders
 - Use of thermoplastics as load bearing members
- Task Group comprises of invited experts
 - Gary Clubb
 - Phill Leonard (HSE)
- Application for CEN STAR funding to be made
- Future action dependant on:
 - Success of funding application
 - Will of TC 93 members to continue working

What do you need to do?

- Be very clear regarding what the UK ladder industry wants
 - One standard or several
 - One or more classes
 - Material restrictions or performance testing
- Lobby organizations in other countries
- Be prepared to support future work (UK & European)
 - People
 - Testing material
 - Testing facilities
- Lobby UK Government to take action through the EC
 - Barrier to innovation
 - Barrier to trade