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Furniture - Circularity - Evaluation method for dis/re-assembly capability

Táto norma obsahuje anglickú verziu európskej normy.
This standard includes the English version of the European Standard.

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d'évaluation pour le démontage/remontageMöbel - Zirkularität - Anforderungen und
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European foreword

This document (EN 17902:2023) 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of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by June 2024, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by June 2024.

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.

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Introduction

This document aims to support the furniture manufacturers in aligning their product (3.1) and development processes with circular economy (CE) through the ability to dis/re-assembly a product, which is an enabler of several CE aspects namely replaceability, upgradability, reuse, repair, refurbishment, remanufacturing, recycling.

These CE aspects allow to develop long lasting products and to enable the extension of the product lifespan and the circular flow of products by recovering, retaining, or adding to their value and thus maintaining their usability for as long as possible and reducing the consumption of primary resources.

Under circular economy framework, a degree of alignment with the CE principles is connected to implementation of CE aspects. Understanding of the implementation requires different evaluation methodologies for each key aspect. This is the first of a series of standards planned to be published by CEN/TC 207-Furniture. Each standard will provide an evaluation methodology for one or more relevant CE aspects. The document can be used as a guide by furniture manufacturers and/or product designers to understand dis/re-assembly capability of their design.

Product design brings complex trade-off decisions. For example, a product could be designed to last several decades that it is not intended to be dis- and re-assembled. This doesn't mean that the product is less circular than another product. This situation shows the importance of a complete evaluation according to different aspects of CE and circular product design criteria.

This document provides a guidance on

- How to determine a priority part (3.3) (see Clause 4);
- What criteria should be considered for a damage-free and easy dis/re-assembly operation (see Clause 5);
- The proposed classes to assess each criteria.

It should be noted that there can be differences concerning the appropriateness and assessment of some criteria when considering end use of some furniture such as domestic use, use by vulnerable groups or commercial use. Similarly, this applies in cases where, for safety reasons, the ability to disassemble and reassemble the product applies to groups of users and their skills sets as defined by the manufacturer.

As noted, some types of furniture may not be suitable for dis/re-assembly by the end user, such as upholstered furniture, which may need a trained/educated person or specialist to re-upholster a product, or work with electrically operated furniture which may pose serious safety risk during dis/re-assembly process. The previously exemplified framework conditions should not mean that a product is less "circular" than another but should allow the manufacturer the ability to address these issues and/or enable corresponding service offers by economic operators.

The safety and performance of most furniture can be aided by the use of suitable standards developed within the technical committee, CEN/TC 207 - Furniture.

This document includes an informative annex:

Annex A: Content of dis/re-assembly instructions.

1 Scope

This document provides guidelines for one aspect of circular economy framework; disassembly and reassembly capability.

This document establishes a set of criteria on which to base an assessment of the ability to access and remove/replace/reassemble priority parts of products. The criteria provided are intended to be used when designing a product and are applicable to different designs, materials, or construction methods.

This document does not include requirements.

The document does not apply to disassembly operation for the sole purpose of separating the individual materials.

This document does not provide a method to evaluate the overall degree of circularity of furniture products. For this, additional complementary evaluation methods for other aspects are necessary.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

koniec náhľadu – text ďalej pokračuje v platenej verzii STN