



Mr P Straker

Assistant Coroner for the coroner area of the Northern District of Greater London

BY EMAIL

28 January 2025

Dear Sir,

Champaguri and Dipak Bhatt : Prevention of future deaths report

Introduction

1. We write in response to your Regulation 28 report of 06 December 2024 concerning the deaths of Champaguri and Dipak Bhatt ("the Report").
2. BSI would like at the outset to express its deepest sympathy and condolences for the family of the victims.
3. We are responding in particular to No.5 (Coroner's Concerns) Item 4 in the Report:
"Working group CPL / 61 look at standards of manufacture of mains and sub mains operated condensate pumps and RFI filters, to improve standards."



BSI's role

4. BSI's role as the NSB is established by Royal Charter. BSI has several governing documents (available online):

- a. BSI's Royal Charter and Bye-laws 1981;
- b. A Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) of 16 September 2024 between HM Government and BSI in respect of BSI's activities as the United Kingdom's NSB;
- c. BS 0: 2021 'A standard for standards – Principles of standardization' (**BS 0**)

5. Article 1.2 of the MoU provides that BSI's role as the NSB includes:

- a) the management, co-ordination and understanding of British Standards and BSI standardisation products;
- b) participation by BSI in European and international standards bodies, and other international activity undertaken in the interests of BSI as the United Kingdom's NSB;
- c) publication, promotion, marketing, distribution and information activities concerned with British Standards, BSI's other standardisation products, and standardisation generally;
- d) support any corporate infrastructure activities intended, wholly or in part, to enable paragraph 12(a) to (c) above.

The Director of Standards has the primary responsibility for the activities set out above. BSI's present Director of Standards is Dr Scott Steedman (the role is incorporated within his responsibilities as Director-General, Standards).

6. BSI develops and distributes standards in response to the needs of UK stakeholders, which include HM Government and business. Standards are technical documents representing good industry practice. They are voluntary documents drafted by independent experts, as distinct from legislation or regulation from government.

7. BSI's role as the National Standards Body is to facilitate expert committees to achieve consensus on industry standards and best practice and to act as the publisher of standards. BSI does not retain in-house expertise on the subject matter of standards. Further, BSI is not a regulatory body and is therefore unable to advise on regulatory matters, which are a matter for HM Government.
8. Each individual standard is the responsibility of one committee. It is the committee who is responsible for the technical content of the standard, not BSI. The committees are composed of:
 - a. An independent chair,
 - b. External experts, who are responsible for the technical content of national standards, and for contributing the UK's technical input into European and international standards, and
 - c. BSI staff, who are responsible for the management of the committee, editorial input and ensuring the committee follows BSI's processes.
9. Each committee has a defined scope, and develops standards within that scope. For European and international standards the committee acts as a local (British) 'mirror committee'.
10. The responsible UK committee in this instance is entitled **CPL/61: Safety of household and similar electrical appliances**. Its scope is:

"Under the direction of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee, is responsible for providing UK input into IEC TC 61, SC 61C and CENELEC TC 61 on matters relating to IEC/EN 60335-1 and Part 2s in the following areas: safety of home laundry and dishwashing machines together with IEC/EN 61770 for electrical appliances connected to the water mains, avoidance of backsiphonage and failure of hose-sets, (formerly within the scope of CPL/61/14, now disbanded), safety standards for motor

compressors, refrigerating appliances and similar appliances for household and commercial use (formerly within the scope of CPL/61/3, now disbanded), safety standards for electrical commercial catering equipment (formerly within the scope of CPL/61/5, now disbanded) and requirements for gas, oil and solid-fuel burning appliances having electrical connections (formerly within the scope of CPL/61/35, now disbanded”).

(see <https://standardsdevelopment.bsigroup.com/committees/50001507>).

Committee’s Response

11. BSI convened a meeting of CPL/61 on 21 January 2025 to discuss the Report.

12. The members present represented the following organizations:

- Agricultural Engineers Association (AEA)
- Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Appliances (AMDEA)
- Vending and Automated Retail Association (AVA)
- BEAMA Installation Ltd
- British and Irish Spa and Hot Tub Association (BISHTA)
- British Home Enhancement Trade Association
- BSI Consumer and Public Interest Network
- Department for Business and Trade
- Electrical Safety First
- Hot Water Association
- London Fire Brigade (LFB)
- Portable Electric Tool Manufacturers Association

- Vending and Automated Retail Association (AVA)
- Which?

13. The responsible BSI committee manager, Mrs Geraldine Salt, recorded the following note of the meeting:

- a. The Coroner's report stated that the fire had been caused by an electrical fault in the tumble dryer and that there was a 10% chance the EMI filter had caused the fire and a 90% chance the condensate pump had caused the fire.
- b. The Coroner asked CPL/61 to look at standards of manufacture of mains and sub mains operated condensate pumps and filters, to consider if the.
- c. The Committee considered this request and decided that in order to be able to reach an informed engineering decision regarding making an appropriate amendment to the standard, more specific information regarding the fire investigation and its conclusions was needed. In particular:
 - a) The LFB representative reported at the CPL/61 meeting that its experts had considered that the fire had been caused by a fault within the door switch mechanism and CPL/61 would like to understand the reasoning as to why this consideration has been discounted.
 - b) The committee asks whether it is possible for the expert reporting which took place during this Court case to be made available to the committee.
 - c) The committee also asks if it could be provided with details of the appliance itself, including its age and whether it had ever been subject to a recall.



- d. CPL/61 considers that without the above information, it is not in a position to make a decision on how best the standard can be amended to address the cause of the fire.
- e. CPL/61 is therefore unable to respond in full to the Coroner's letter at present but it will be holding a further meeting on 6 February 2025. Should the above information be available to the committee at that point, then it will be able to look further into the matter with a view to deciding how the cause of the fire can be best addressed in the relevant standards.

Yours sincerely,

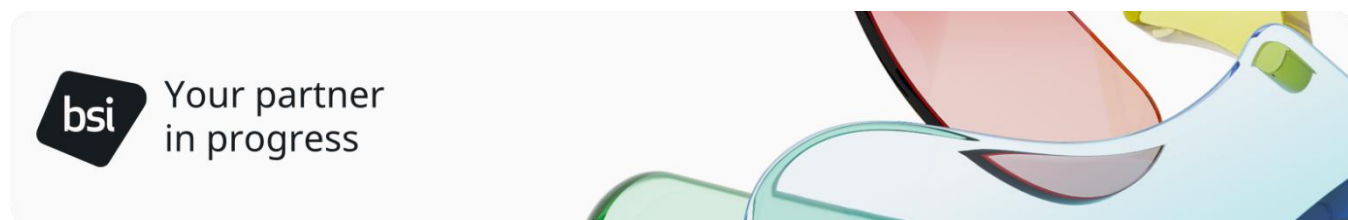
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Head of Governance & Risk, Knowledge Solutions

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