Testing of rail car seats

Due to frequent change of load caused by change of the users in connection with recurring acceleration processes, driver seats and passenger seats are exposed to strong mechanical stresses. In addition to the listed testing procedures, EPH provides the determination of VOC and formaldehyde emission from passenger and driver’s seats according to ISO 16000/3/6/0.

Expertise and equipment

The Entwicklungs- und Prüflabor Holztechnologie GmbH (EPH) at the Institut für Holztechnologie Dresden gemeinnützige GmbH (IHD) is working on the basis of an accreditation according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025 by Deutsche Akkreditierungsstelle (DAkkS). Transfer of results from the living room furniture industry to the passenger seats industry is possible due to the development and research potential of IHD in the fields of usability, comfort, ergonomics and micro climatic properties of seating furniture. The EPH is accredited for the Testing Specification for passenger seats of Deutsche Bahn according to GrulaSi (Aug. 2013) and has, in addition to the furniture area, systematically focused its technical test know-how on the requirements for rail vehicles.

Contact persons

Dipl.-Ing.
Albrecht Lühmann
+49 351 4662 398
albrecht.luehmann@eph-dresden.de

Dipl.-Ing.
Martina Broege
+49 351 4662 340
martina.broege@eph-dresden.de
**Strength test**

The following tests on the basis of national, European and international test specifications are appropriate for the proof of mechanical strength of the seat construction and the upholstery:

- Part 1.4/3.4 of GrulaSi of Deutsche Bahn AG including deformation determination
- UIC 566 VE, Annex 7
- Testing of loose seats in special coaches according to UIC 566, Annex 2.3
- NF F31-119, Annex 5.1
- Endurance test according to NF F31-119, Annexes 5.4 and 5.5

**Upholstery testing**

We conduct the following tests for the characterisation of the upholstery and for the proof of durability:

- Hardness test of upholstery according to GrulaSi, Parts 1.2/3.2 including determination of spring characteristics curve
- Fatigue testing according to GrulaSi, Parts 1.3/3.3 including determination of the changes of impact paths and upholstery thicknesses
- Testing of upholstered elements under load according to NF F31-119, Section 5.2
- Testing for seat and backrest upholstery following BS 6261 "Procedures for evaluation of usage properties of upholstered furniture"

**Long-term function testing**

In order to identify possible weaknesses of the operating mechanism, tests as simulation of the expected stress are common. These mainly concern the adjustment of:

- Seat depth
- Backrest tilt
- Folding armrest
- Footrest
- Folding seat

on the basis of the following documents:

- GrulaSi, Parts 1.8/3.9
- NF F31-119, Section 5.6
- Function simulations according to special requirements of the client

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**Static test forces according to GrulaSi (extract)**

**Determination of the spring characteristic curve at a seat cushion**

**Long-term function test of the tilt adjustment on a driver seat with test robot**