

UNI 10988 – Shop furniture–Storage units

Terminology, safety requirements and test methods

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At the beginning of the 2000s, there was a great deal of interest from the sector of manufacturers of supermarket furniture. Those years were characterized by the rapid growth of supermarkets, especially what were called “discount” or “hard discount”.

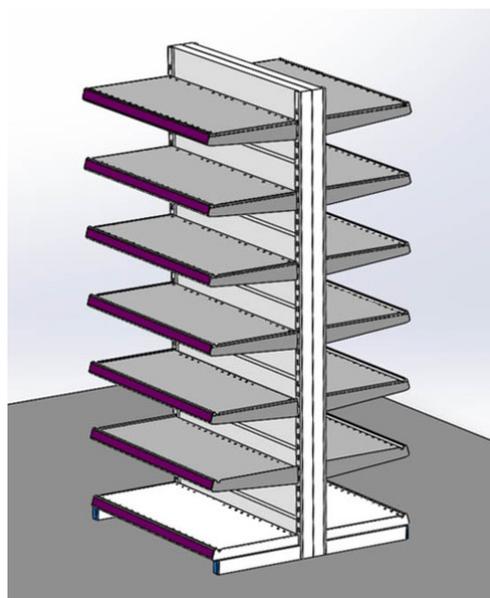
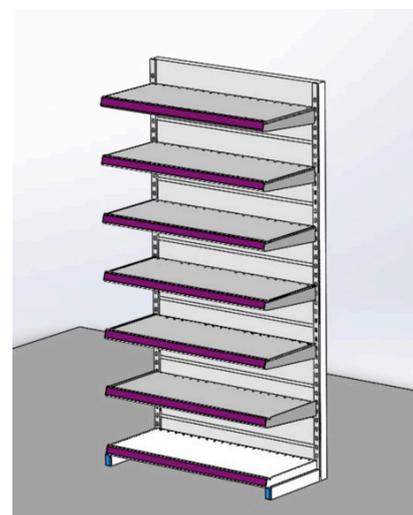
Therefore, at the same time, the suppliers of the furnishings (mainly shelving) also grew and soon gathered in the special furniture commission of UNI for the drafting of a supporting standard. Leaving aside the whole story (sometimes troubled) in 2002 the UNI 10988 standard was published. After eighteen years and many changes in the normative scenario, especially European (EN standards) in July this year the revision of standard has been published.

Let’s now briefly see the main points.

Contents of the standard

The standard initially contains a copious list of terms. This was necessary in the first version and was maintained in the current one as it was considered essential to focus on the type of furniture covered by the standard. As you can already understand from the title, we are talking about wall or central shelving (see the images shown) which we all experience as consumers and supermarkets users.

It should be noted, however, that given the definitions given, even shops other than supermarkets can find some of their furniture.



Moving on to the requirements and the respective test methods, it should be emphasized that out of nine test methods listed in the test sequence table, five are among those contained in the EN 16122: 2012 standard, the European standard that contains test methods for domestic and non-domestic storage units. The remaining four remained those of the previous version and are specific for supermarket products (single-sided and double-sided).

The subdivision of the shelving according to unit loads still remains (up to 6 kg /dm² and up to 2.5 kg /dm²) with different test sequences. In this way the standard allows to verify the strenght and therefore the mechanical safety of a very wide range of these products ranging from supermarkets to other commercial establishments. I believe that this is also the technical value of the standard and we hope that it will be used by all the operators of this important sector of our society. Like all standards, this too is subject to shortcomings and continuous improvements that we hope will derive from the experience due to its systematic use.

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