Tables for domestic and non-domestic use : new 2023 versions published

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A t the end of 2023, the **new versions** of the reference standards for **tables for domestic and non-domestic use** were published.
In this article we will illustrate the main changes, analysing separately the standard on tables for domestic use, EN 12521, and that on tables for non-domestic use, EN 15372.

TABLES FOR DOMESTIC USE: THE EN 12521

The new EN 12521 was published in November 2023. It replaces the EN 12521:2015, a standard that defines the safety, resistance, durability and stability requirements of tables for domestic use.

The main changes and technical updates refer to:
New methods and limits have been added for the evaluation of **safety requirements**, and **finger entrapment and crushing** during the use of the product.
The tests are also applicable to tables with the top not fixed to the structure (previously they were excluded), **with the exception of trestle ones** (See fig. 1).

Fig. 1 Example of trestle table with supported top,
excluded from the applicability of EN 12521:2023

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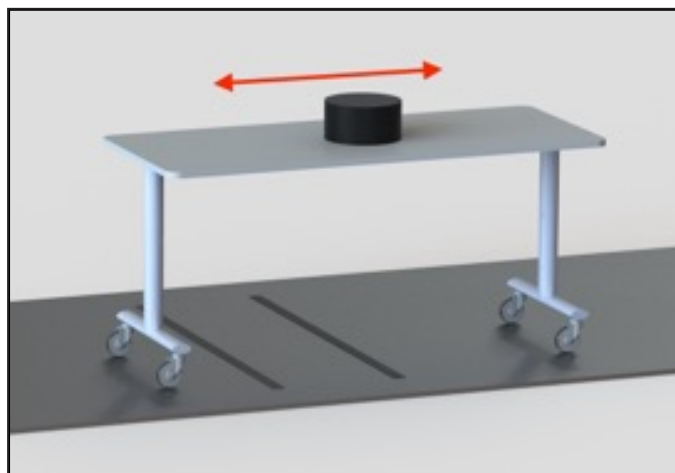Tests for **tables with castors** (Fig.2) and **height-adjustable tables** (Fig.3) have been added.

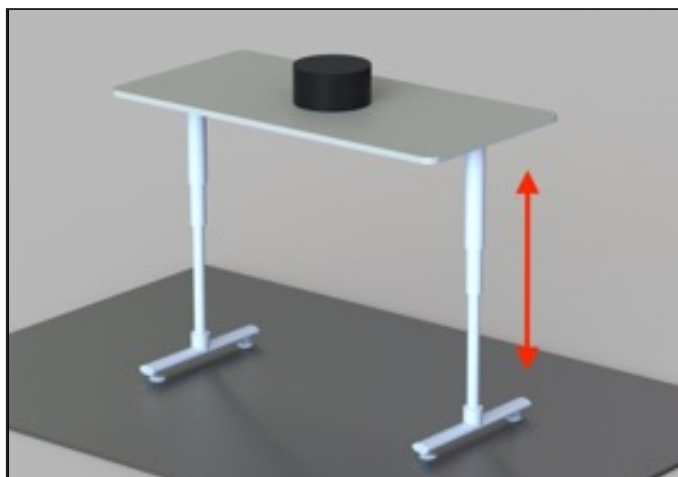| Fig. 2 – Durability of tables with castors EN 1730 Par.6.8 – EN 12521:2023	
Load on the top	**Cycles**
20 kg	1.000

Fig. 3 - Height adjustment durability test EN 1730 Par.8 – EN 12521:2023	
Load on the top	**Cycles**
Specified by the customer, minimum 25 or 50kg	5.000

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The **vertical fatigue test** has been added for **cantilevered tables** with a height of up to 600 mm or with a surface area of up to 0.3 m^2. **A new category** of tables has been defined, the **"Delicate tables"** (See fig 4), which have a maximum work surface area of 0.30 m^2 and which are intended to support light loads.
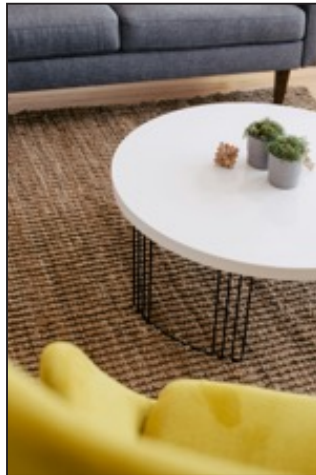

Fig. 4 Example of "Delicate table"

Both for the stability and the mechanical resistance tests, these tables require a lower load or the elimination of some tests compared to other types of tables. In the information for use, it must be indicated whether the table is a "Delicate table" with the addition of some warnings.

TABLES FOR NON-DOMESTIC USE: THE EN 15372

The new EN 15372 was published in December 2023. It replaces EN 15372:2016, a standard that defines the safety, resistance, durability and stability requirements of tables for non-domestic use.

The main changes and technical updates refer to:
New methods and limits have been added for the evaluation of **safety requirements** for the evaluation of **finger entrapment and crushing** during the use of the product.
The tests are **not applicable to tables for professional laboratory use** and to those with **the top not fixed** to the structure (previously they were not excluded).

As for tables for domestic use, **the test for height-adjustable tables has been added** (Fig.3) providing, for all three levels, a number of 5,000 cycles and a load ranging from 25 to 75 kg.
The Durability of tables with castors, however, remained, as for the previous version, at the information annex level.

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In this new standard, the **deflection test** of the table tops (according to the EN 1730 method par. 6.7, see fig. 5), although it is always included in an informative annex, considers a maximum deformation which varies depending on the distance of the supports and the material of the top, this in addition to the load of 1.5 kg/dm^2.
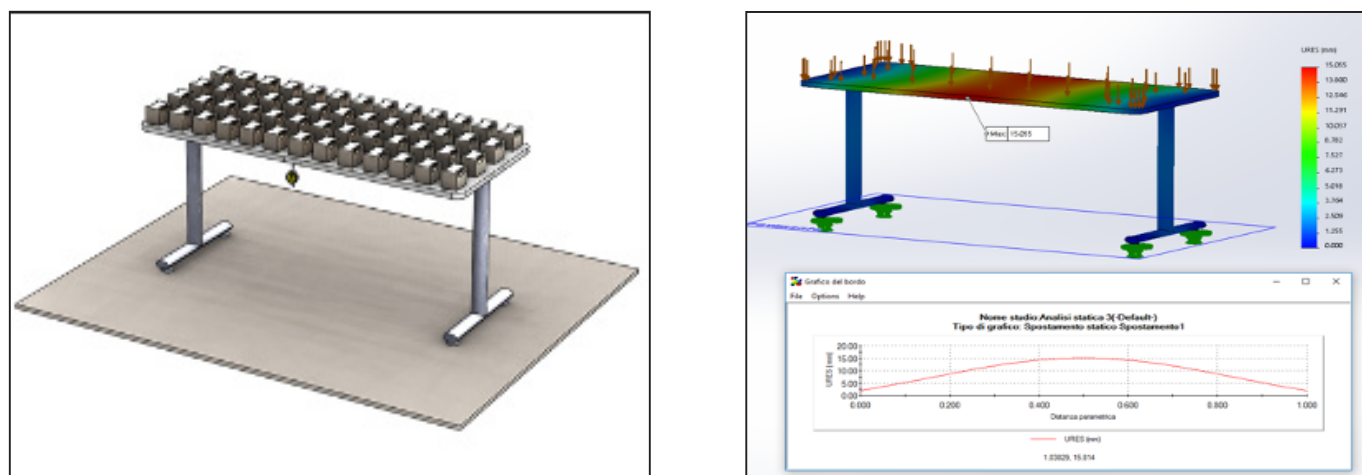

Fig. 5 Deflection test of the table tops

In the Annex C, the reference test level to be used can be light, general or severe depending on the intended use of the table. It is always provided as informative, therefore not normative, but the correlations have been better defined, listing some application examples, as reported in table 1.

Table 1, correlation between test level and intended use.

Test level	Use	Intended use
1	light	Areas where tables are usually intended for light use (for a short time and with low loads). Examples of use: hotel rooms, churches.
2	general	Areas where tables are usually intended for mixed use (for a short time or for a few hours, with low or high loads). Examples of use: hotels, libraries, offices – excluding work tables –, bars, restaurants, public waiting rooms, banks, meeting rooms, relaxation rooms, canteens.
3	severe	Areas where tables are occasionally or continuously subjected to extremely high loads due to either intended or improper use. Examples of use: night clubs, police stations, public areas of hospitals, casinos, changing rooms in sports areas, prisons, barracks.

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