

Traffic Sign Standards update

Introduction

Declaring the performance of products covered by BSEN 12899 becomes mandatory on 1st July 2013 with the full implementation of the Construction Product Regulations (CPR) in over 30 European Countries; it will be unlawful to supply or install a product covered by the scope of the Standard without it being CE marked and its performance declared as required by the CPR.

Today, most of the UK traffic sign market provides products on a self certification basis and has done so for the 72 years since 1939, when BS 873 was first published. Manufacturers and distributors should now be planning for 1st July 2013 which brings significant changes to the permanent traffic sign industry in more than 30 European Countries and furthermore becomes a legal requirement when it will be unlawful to install a product on the market covered by the scope of the Standard without previously demonstrating conformity; the mandatory third party testing of many products covered by EN 12899.

BS EN 12899; 2007 Fixed, vertical road traffic signs

There are currently 5 parts to the standard;

Part 1: Fixed signs

Part 2: Transilluminated traffic bollards (TTB)

Part 3: Delineator posts and retroreflectors

Part 4: Factory production control

Part 5: Initial type testing

Parts 1, 2 & 3 contain Annex ZA tables against which components or kits should be tested to demonstrate conformity. Many component products should be third party tested by Notified Bodies due to BSEN 12899 having attestation level 1.

Highways Agency

The HA revision of Series 1200 Specification for Highway Works (SHW) and related documents is expected soon, recognizing the above changes to manufacturing standards.

National Highways Sector Scheme 9a & 9B.

NHSS 9a is due to be revised following publication of the IAN, due to changes in manufacturing standards.

NHSS 9b for non illuminated sign installation is expected to be published by the end of 2011.

BS 8408 Microprismatic retroreflective sheeting standard

BS 8408 was published in June 2005, and details method of tests for microprismatic retroreflective sheeting material for use in vertical road traffic signs. Microprismatic sheeting suppliers will make available the performance index results of their individual sheeting's and specifies will provide the sign scenarios.

BS 8442 Miscellaneous road traffic signs & devices

This is a UK National Standard for temporary signs & certain other UK traffic devices that fall outside the scope of BS EN 12899-1, and was published in 2006.

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