

Style guide for British Standards of UK origin – Presentation, typography and standard wording



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Foreword

Publishing information

This document is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 28 February 2026. It was prepared on behalf of the BSI Standards Policy and Strategy Committee.

Supersession

This document supersedes *Style guide for British Standards of UK origin – Presentation, typography and standard wording:2022*, which is withdrawn.

Relationship with other publications

This document gives the style information and standard wording referred to in the *Rules for the structure and drafting of UK standards:2022*¹⁾, as applicable to British Standards of UK origin. It is also applicable to Published Documents (PDs), including non-contradictory complementary information (NCCI) to Eurocodes, and to National Annexes to Eurocodes.

Information about this document

This is the editorial style guide to be used for all British Standards of UK origin, Published Documents (PDs) and National Annexes to Eurocodes. It gives guidelines on presentation, typography and BSI-approved standard wording. It is not a British Standard.

Reproduction of material derived from the ISO/IEC Directives²⁾ is by kind permission of ISO and IEC.

¹⁾ BSI, *Rules for the structure and drafting of UK standards:2022*. Available at <https://www.bsigroup.com/siteassets/pdf/en/about-us/rules-for-structure-and-drafting-of-uk-standards-2022.pdf>.

²⁾ ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2:2021, *Rules for the structure and drafting of International Standards*. Available at <https://www.iso.org/sites/directives/current/part2/index.xhtml>.

Section 1: Presentation and typography

COMMENTARY ON SECTION 1

This section is applicable largely to typeset documents, i.e. PDFs or printed documents. Some elements will not be relevant to online documentation, e.g. the placing of footnotes and guidance relating to continuation of figures and tables.

1 General

Typeset standards are normally printed on A4 pages and in black only, using a set layout. Any special editions (e.g. an A6 pocket edition for use in the field, a large-print edition for visually impaired people, or the use of colour or half-tones) will require justification by the committee and approval by the Planning and Approval team.

The presentation and typography should be in accordance with the recommendations in this style guide. A *Visual reference guide*, which exemplifies these recommendations, is given in Annex A.

2 Layout and pagination

2.1 Running headers and footers

The running header contains the identifier and year, and the words “BRITISH STANDARD”. The identifier and year are ranged right on recto pages, and left on verso pages; the words “BRITISH STANDARD” are ranged left on recto pages, and right on verso pages.

NOTE The words “BRITISH STANDARD” are replaced by “PUBLISHED DOCUMENT” or “NATIONAL ANNEX” for these types of document.

The running footer contains the page number and copyright information, which are placed together, and are ranged right on recto pages and left on verso pages. The copyright information is given in the following form:

© THE BRITISH STANDARDS INSTITUTION 20XX – ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Preliminary pages (contents and Foreword) are numbered using upper case Roman numerals. Main text pages are numbered using Arabic numerals.

If a verso page does not contain any content, the header and footer are omitted and the words “THIS PAGE DELIBERATELY LEFT BLANK” are inserted at the bottom of the page, ranged left. Recto pages should not be left blank, with the exception of the inside back cover, which is left blank if the content finishes on a verso page.

2.2 Pagination

All content is set in a single column.

The contents list starts at the top of a new recto page.

The Foreword starts at the top of the next page after the contents list, whether recto or verso.

If an Introduction is included, it starts at the top of a new recto page, with Clause 1 following straight on. If there is no Introduction, Clause 1 starts at the top of a new recto page. Second and subsequent clauses usually run on from the first.

If sections are used, each section title starts at the top of a new page, whether recto or verso.

If annexes are included, the first annex starts at the top of a new page, whether recto or verso. Second and subsequent annexes usually run on from the first.

If a Bibliography and/or an index are included, each starts at the top of a new page, whether recto or verso.

If paragraphs have to be split across pages, the number of lines at the top/bottom of the page should ideally be not less than three, and should under no circumstances be less than two.

If a list starts at the top of a page, the sentence that introduces the list should be carried over to that page. If a lengthy list is split across pages with just one or two items at the bottom of a page, it is advisable to move those items and the introductory sentence to keep the whole list together.

3 Typography

3.1 General

British Standards of UK origin are typeset in Cambria, using italic and bold variants where appropriate (see 3.3 and 3.4, respectively).

3.2 Use of colour

British Standards of UK origin are usually printed in black, using greyscales as required for figures and tables, with the exception of hyperlinks, which are blue to distinguish them from non-linked text.

Colour should not be used in figures and tables unless it is the only way to indicate the required technical content. It should not be used for purely decorative purposes. Where colour is used, the needs of people with varying forms of colour-blindness should be taken into account in the development of the content. The technical content should be equally accessible to all users of the standard.

3.3 Italic type

Italic type is used for:

- notes and commentaries, including the identifying words “NOTE” and “COMMENTARY ON (CLAUSE)”;
- items of apparatus in a test method;
- figure and table titles;
- the word “(*continued*)” after the number of a figure or table that spans more than one page;
- foreign words and phrases that have not been anglicized;
- titles of publications, whether cited within the text or listed in the Normative references clause or Bibliography;

NOTE 1 Where publications are cited within text that is already set in italic, e.g. commentaries, the titles should be set in roman type.

- specialist subjects in accordance with the conventions of that subject;
- symbols representing physical quantities (i.e. variables); and
- symbols used as subscripts representing physical quantities (see Example).

EXAMPLE

Compare

V_t representing volume V at temperature t

with

V_t representing volume V of test piece t

Italic/sloping letters should not be used for unit symbols, mathematical operators or chemical element symbols.

Further guidance on the use of italic type in mathematical expressions is given in the *Rules for the structure and drafting of UK standards:2022*.

Italic type should not be used for emphasis. If emphasis is required in informative text, it should be made clear from the way in which the text is worded, bearing in mind the need to avoid hidden provisions.

NOTE 2 Emphasis is not appropriate in normative text because all provisions of the standard are of equal importance.

Italic type should not be used for quotations, unless they appear within a note or commentary (which would already be in italic type). If quotations are given, they should be placed within quotation marks (see 4.3).

3.4 Bold type

Bold type is used:

- for section, clause and subclause headings (including subclause headings in the Introduction, if present), Foreword and Bibliography subheadings, and figure and table numbers;
- for terms listed in a vocabulary or terms and definitions clause;
- for references to clause and subclause numbers within the text (references to clause and subclause numbers within notes and commentaries appear in bold italic);

NOTE 1 Bold is not used for the words “CLAUSE” or “ANNEX”, for annex letters, or for figure/table numbers (including within notes and commentaries).

- in specialized scientific and mathematical notation, e.g. **a** representing vector **a**;
- in vocabularies to denote, at each occurrence in the text, words and phrases defined elsewhere in the vocabulary; and
- for the words “WARNING” and “CAUTION”, where warnings and cautions are needed.

Bold type should not be used for emphasis in informative text. If emphasis is required, it should be made clear from the way in which the text is worded, bearing in mind the need to avoid hidden provisions.

NOTE 2 Emphasis is not appropriate in normative text because all provisions of the standard are of equal importance.

3.5 Subscripts and superscripts

Subscripts are used for numbers in chemical element symbols, e.g. H₂O.

Superscripts are used for footnote references. Superscripts should not be used for ordinals, e.g. use “5th” not “5th”.

Guidance on the use of subscripts and superscripts in mathematical expressions is given in the *Rules for the structure and drafting of UK standards:2022*.

3.6 Notes, commentaries and examples

Notes and commentaries are set in a smaller, italic type to distinguish them from the provisions of the standard. They are identified using the terms “NOTE” or “COMMENTARY ON...”, which appear in the same type.

Examples are identified using the term “EXAMPLE”. They are followed by either an em space or a line break, depending on the nature of the example.

Further guidance on the layout of notes, commentaries and examples is given in the *Rules for the structure and drafting of UK standards:2022*.

3.7 Footnote references

A footnote reference should be preceded by a thin space and followed by a bracket, to help distinguish it from the text.

NOTE This is not currently an option within the automated typesetting system.

Where a footnote applies to a whole sentence, the footnote reference should appear after the full point at the end of the sentence. Where it applies to a particular word or phrase, it should appear immediately after that word or phrase (before the closing comma if there is one).

3.8 Alignment

Body text and text in figures are set ranged left, ragged right.

Text in tables is usually set ranged left, ragged right, but may be centred if this makes the table easier to follow, e.g. for short numbers, single characters or headings spanning a number of columns.

Columns of number values in tables are normally aligned on the decimal point, with the longest number value ranged to the left of the column. This does not apply to clause/subclause references in tables, or to situations where rows are numbered for ease of reference. There are also occasions where left-justified numbers might be easier to read, for example where very different orders of magnitude, or numerical values in different units, appear in a single column.

NOTE Alignment on the decimal point within tables is not currently an option within the automated typesetting system.

Text should not be justified.

3.9 Line breaks

Where individual items of content are to be viewed as a whole (e.g. identifiers, numbers associated with unit symbols, or hyphenated words), they should not break across lines.

3.10 Page breaks

3.10.1 Widows and orphans

Where a paragraph is split over two pages, there should be at least two lines of text on each page. Paragraphs of three lines or less should therefore not be split.

List items should be treated in the same way as paragraphs.

3.10.2 Keep-with-next settings

Where a heading appears towards the bottom of a page, there should be at least three lines of text under it.

NOTE The “COMMENTARY ON...” wording at the beginning of a commentary counts as a heading.

A paragraph that introduces a list should have at least two list items below it, regardless of the way in which the paragraph is punctuated.

A paragraph that introduces an equation or any other display text should be on the same page as the content that it introduces.

4 Text

4.1 Hyphens

Hyphens should be used consistently throughout a standard or series of related standards, in accordance with the following:

- where omission of hyphens would disguise the form of the word and make it less intelligible, e.g. “no-one” not “noone”;
- where awkward combinations of letters would result, e.g. “pre-arc-ing” not “prearc-ing”;
- where the hyphenated words differ in meaning from the unhyphenated, e.g. “3 day meetings”, i.e. three meetings of 1 day each, as opposed to “3-day meetings”, i.e. meetings lasting for 3 days each;
- in compound adjectives, e.g. “ceiling-mounted detector”, “non-exhaustive list”; and
- where failure to use hyphens would cause ambiguity, e.g. “zinc-dust-painted steel”, “sprayed-metal and zinc-rich coatings”.

NOTE When checking for consistency, bear in mind that there is a difference between a compound adjective and an adjective followed by a noun, e.g. “long-term plan” as opposed to “planning for the long term”.

Hyphens should not be used where the meaning is clear without them, e.g. “analytical reagent grade mercuric nitrate”.

Hyphens should not be used where a word is unhyphenated in the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*³⁾.

Hyphens should not be used to replace an en dash (–) or minus sign (–).

4.2 Word division

Word division is not usually necessary with ragged-right text. If division is unavoidable, e.g. in the headings of columns in a table, words should be divided:

- after a prefix, e.g. “re-appear”, “trans-form”;
- before a suffix, e.g. “achieve-ment”, “loud-ness”;
- between two identical consonants, e.g. “neces-sary”, “excel-lent”; and
- between two different consonants if separately sounded, e.g. “imper-fect”, “pris-tine”.

Word division should not be used:

- if it alters pronunciation or meaning, e.g. “leg-end”;
- in single syllable words or their plurals;
- in abbreviations;
- in groups of numerals and associated units of measurement;
- in dates expressed in numerals;
- in hyphenated words except at the hyphen; and
- in references to elements of text (e.g. clauses, annexes, figures, tables) or publication identifiers.

Further guidance on line breaks is given in the *Rules for the structure and drafting of UK standards:2022*.

³⁾ OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS. *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*. Sixth edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007. ISBN 978-0-19-920688-9.

4.3 Punctuation

Punctuation should be used consistently, in accordance with accepted grammatical principles.

Smart apostrophes (') should be used rather than straight apostrophes (').

The use of quotation marks should be avoided wherever possible (see Note 1). Where they are needed, double quotation marks should always be used. Single quotation marks should not be used. Where quotation marks are used, they should be smart (" ") rather than straight (" ").

NOTE 1 If a term is likely to be unknown to the user, it should be given a definition, or an alternative term used instead. Quotations from other documents are expected to be uncommon because of the restriction on use of third-party content (see BS 0:2021, 9.5).

If text within a set of brackets forms a complete sentence, the full point should go before the closing bracket. Where there are brackets within brackets, they should be nested following the order {[()]}, beginning with ().

EXAMPLE

Correct: [see 3.1.2.3c)]

Incorrect: (see 3.1.2.3c))

NOTE 2 In this context the term “bracket” includes parentheses (), brackets [] and braces { }.

NOTE 3 This does not apply in cases where brackets are used as part of a stylistic convention rather than as punctuation. Typically, this exception is seen in instances where a non-standards publication is cited as the source of a definition, which would be displayed as “[SOURCE: Document title [#]]”.

Dashes should generally not be used as punctuation marks within running text. If there is a need to use dashes parenthetically, then an en dash with a space either side of it should be used. However, it is preferable to use parentheses.

If a single en dash is used to separate elements of a title or heading, the first word in each element should be capitalized (see also 4.4).

In tables, dashes may be used to indicate that there is no value in a particular cell, as an alternative to the words “Not applicable”. In these cases, an em dash should be used.

In the Normative references clause and Bibliography, elements in titles of standards publications are separated by an en dash with a space each side, followed by a capital letter. A comma follows the identifier and there is no full point at the end.

EXAMPLE

BS EN 81-72, *Safety rules for the construction and installation of lifts – Part 72: Particular applications for passenger and goods passenger lifts – Firefighters lifts*

4.4 Capital letters

Initial capitals are used for:

- proper names;
- the first word of a heading or a title;
- where an en dash is used to separate elements of a heading or title, the first word after the en dash;
- the words “Section”, “Clause”, “Annex”, “Foreword”, “Introduction”, “Figure” and “Table” in cross-references;

NOTE Generic references to elements of text are given in lower case. References to parts of a standard, e.g. “this part of BS 1234”, are also given in lower case.

- words in cited publications that traditionally have initial capitals, e.g. IET Wiring Regulations; and
- names of organizations as used by the organization, e.g. “Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy”.

As a general rule words should not be set in upper case. The exceptions are:

- warnings and cautions, where the words “WARNING” and “CAUTION” should be set in upper case bold type;
- notes and commentaries, where the words “NOTE” and “COMMENTARY ON (CLAUSE/ANNEX/FIGURE/TABLE)” should be set in upper case italic type; and
- examples, where the word “EXAMPLE” should be set in upper case type.

BS 7671:2018 (*Requirements for electrical installations – IET Wiring Regulations*) stipulates the use of V AC and V DC to indicate alternating current and direct current.

4.5 Common spellings

Spelling is taken from the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*, except for “sulfur” and its derivatives, for which the spelling is taken from the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC). The spelling of publication titles and names of organizations should not be altered if they differ from the Oxford/IUPAC spellings. Where direct quotations are given, the spellings should be as shown in the original text.

NOTE 1 Quotations from other documents are expected to be uncommon because of the restriction on use of third-party content (see BS 0:2021, 9.5).

NOTE 2 Definitions reproduced from a source document, while still subject to the restriction on third-party content, do not count as direct quotations and therefore need to have any “s” spellings changed to “z”.

“Data” is treated as a plural noun.

In an IT context, use “disk” and “program”; otherwise, use “disc” and “programme”.

BSI uses the “z” spelling usage (e.g. “standardization”) for consistency with the preferred variant listed in the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*, noting also that it is the traditional English usage rather than an Americanism. The following list gives some of the more common “s” and “z” spellings.

actualize	crystallize	familiarize	magnetize	plagiarize	specialize
advise		fertilize	materialize	pluralize	stabilize
alkalize	demise	formalize	maximize	polarize	standardize
analyse	democratize	fossilize	mechanize	polymerize	sterilize
anatomize	devise	franchise	memorize	popularize	summarize
anglicize	diagnose		merchandise	premise	supervise
anodize	dialyse	galvanize	methodize	prise (verb)	surmise
apprise	digitize	generalize	minimize	prize (noun)	surprise
authorize	disguise		misadvise	publicize	symbolize
	disorganize	harmonize	mobilize		synchronize
biased	dualize	humanize	modernize	rationalize	synthesize
		hydrogenize		realize	systematize
capitalize	economize		nationalize	recognize	
capsize	emphasize	idealize	naturalize	reorganize	tantalize
carbonize	energize	improvise	neutralize	reprise	televise
categorize	enfranchise	incise	normalize	revise	temporize
cauterize	enterprise	ionize			theorize
centralize	equalize	italicize	optimize	scrutinize	treatise
characterize	etymologize		organize	seise (in law)	
cognizance	excise	jeopardize	oxidize	seize (grasp)	utilize
comprise	exercise			sensitize	
compromise	exorcize	legalize	paralyse	signalize	vaporize
contrariwise	extemporize	legitimatize	particularize	siliconize	visualize
criticize		localize	patronize		vocalize

5 Figures and tables

5.1 Presentation of figures

Figures are usually either text-width or full-page-width, although a narrow option is also available. If necessary, large figures can be rotated.

Figures are boxed in with a thin rule. The number and title of a figure appear above the figure, outside the box. The number, preceded by the word “Figure”, is ranged left to the outer page margin, in bold. It is followed by an em dash and then the title in italic. If the title spans two or more lines, the second and any further lines are ranged left with the first word of the title, not with the figure number.

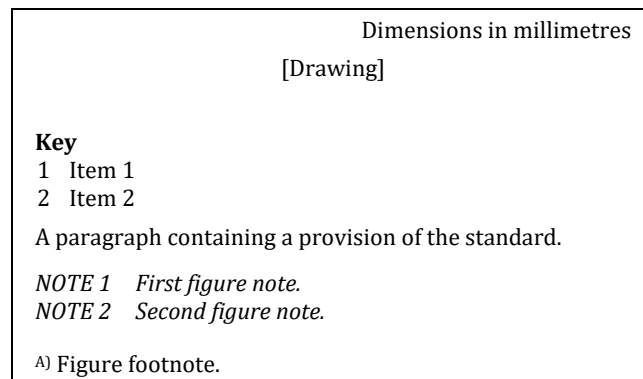
If a figure extends to two or more pages, the continuation is indicated on the second and any subsequent pages.

The order of elements within a figure should normally be drawing(s), key, paragraph, note(s), footnote(s), all within the figure box (see Example). The exception would be where there are two or more subfigures, where the key applies to all subfigures but each has its own notes; in this case, the notes would come above the captions, and the key would follow the captions.

NOTE 1 It is preferable for provisions of the standard to be placed in the main text rather than within a figure.

EXAMPLE

Figure 1 — Title of figure



If a figure is cited within a list, it should ideally be placed at the end of the list, rather than in the middle of the list. A figure should never appear in the middle of an indented list (sub-list).

NOTE 2 This does not preclude the inclusion of stand-alone graphics such as symbols in a list.

5.2 Presentation of tables

Tables are usually either text-width or full-page-width. If necessary, large tables can be rotated.

The number and title of a table appear above the table. The number, preceded by the word “Table”, is ranged left to the outer page margin, in bold. It is followed by an em dash and then the title in italic. If the title spans two or more lines, the second and any further lines are ranged left with the first word of the title, not with the table number.

If a table extends to two or more pages, the continuation is indicated on the second and any subsequent pages.

If each column has a different unit, the units should be displayed below the column headings, aligned horizontally in a single row and vertically with the column headings, as in Example 1.

If a single unit applies throughout the table, it should be displayed in a separate row of the table, above the column headings and ranged right with the top table rule, as in Example 2.

EXAMPLE 1

Table 1 — *Title of table*

Type	Linear density	Inside diameter	Outside diameter
	kg/mm	mm	mm

EXAMPLE 2

Table 2 — *Title of table*

Dimensions in millimetres			
Type	Length	Inside diameter	Outside diameter

Text and headings in tables are usually ranged left (see also 3.8).

In general, vertical rules are not considered to be necessary, and horizontal rules are used only below the title and column headings, to separate different elements of a table, and at the end of a table. However, both horizontal and vertical rules may be used at any point where they improve the articulation of a table, although tables should not be “boxed in” by the use of vertical rules at the sides.

Again, in general, the rule immediately below the title and the rule at the end of the table should be thicker than any rules within the body of the table. However, thicker rules may also be used within the body of the table if this improves the articulation.

The order of elements within a table should be data, paragraph, note(s), footnote(s), all within the top and bottom table rules (see Example 3).

NOTE It is preferable for provisions of the standard to be placed in the main text rather than within a table.

If a table is cited within a list, it should ideally be placed at the end of the list, rather than in the middle of the list. A table should never appear in the middle of an indented list (sub-list).

EXAMPLE 3

Table 3 — *Title of table*

Dimensions in millimetres		
Type	Length	Inside diameter
A	l_1	d_1
B	l_1 ^{A)}	d_2 ^{B), C)}
A paragraph containing a provision of the standard.		
<i>NOTE 1 First table note.</i>		
<i>NOTE 2 Second table note.</i>		
^{A)} Table footnote.		
^{B)} Table footnote.		
^{C)} Table footnote.		

Section 2: Standard wording

6 Front cover

The front cover of a British Standard gives the identifier and title (including the part title if appropriate).

The following statement should be included on the front cover of every Published Document.

This publication is not to be regarded as a British Standard.

NOTE This wording should be included in the Foreword if typesetting limitations preclude it from being given on the front cover (see 9.7.6).

7 Inside front cover

The following information appears on the inside front cover in every British Standard and Published Document:

a) under the heading “Publishing and copyright information”:

1) a copyright notice giving the year of publication, worded as follows:

The BSI copyright notice displayed in this document indicates when the document was last issued.

© The British Standards Institution [YYYY]

Published by BSI Standards Limited [YYYY]

NOTE In the case of a National Annex or NCCI PD to a Eurocode, the copyright date and published date are the date when the NA or NCCI PD is published, not the date when the Eurocode was published.

2) the ISBN;

3) the ICS (with multiple entries separated by semi-colons);

4) a copyright statement, worded as follows:

No copying without BSI permission except as permitted by copyright law.

5) the committee reference and DPC number(s), worded as follows:

The following BSI references relate to the work on this document:

Committee reference [reference]

Draft(s) for comment [DPC number]; [DPC number]

b) under the heading “Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication”, details of any amendments or corrigenda, where applicable.

8 Contents list

The contents list gives:

- Foreword;
- Introduction (if present), with level 2 subclause headings if the Introduction is subdivided;
- section headings (if present);
- level 1 clause headings;
- level 2 subclause headings;

NOTE 1 The inclusion of further heading levels is permissible but not encouraged, as it can greatly add to the page count and can make the contents list difficult to follow.

- annex headings;

- level 1 annex clause headings; and
- figures and tables.

Figures and tables are listed under the clause, subclause or annex to which they relate, in the order in which they appear.

Where headings are changed as part of a corrigendum or amendment, the corrigendum/ amendment tags do not appear in the contents list.

A summary of pages appears at the bottom of the last page of the contents list, in the following form.

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i to n, pages 1 to n, an inside back cover and a back cover.

NOTE 2 In a National Annex to a Eurocode, which does not usually have a contents list, the summary of pages should be included at the foot of the inside front cover.

9 Foreword

COMMENTARY ON CLAUSE 9

Throughout this clause, the term “British Standard” or “part of BS XXXX” should be replaced by “Published Document” or “part of PD XXXX” where applicable.

9.1 Structure of the Foreword

The Foreword is subdivided into a number of headings, in the following order:

- a) publishing information (always required);
- b) supersession (not relevant for new standards);
- c) relationship with other publications (only required where relevant);
- d) information about this document (always required);
- e) hazard warnings (only required if there are warnings/cautions in the standard);
- f) use of this document (always required);
- g) presentational conventions (always required); and
- h) contractual and legal considerations (always required).

9.2 Publishing information

9.2.1 The first paragraph of the Foreword, under the heading “Publishing information”, should give the committee reference(s) and effective date, in the following form.

This British Standard/part of BS XXXX is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on [XX Month 20XX]. It was prepared by Technical Committee [reference], [Title]. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to the committee manager.

or

This British Standard/part of BS XXXX is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on [XX Month 20XX]. It was prepared by Subcommittee [reference], [Title], under the authority of Technical Committee [reference] [Title]. A list of organizations represented on these committees can be obtained on request to the committee manager.

9.2.2 If CEN has granted derogation from standstill to enable a standard to be published, the following statement should be included under the heading “Publishing information”.

The European Committee for Standardization (CEN) has granted derogation from standstill to permit BSI to publish this British Standard/part of BS XXXX as a UK national standard. This derogation is to enable [give reason] and has been granted [for a period of X years from publication/until publication of BS EN XXXX].

9.2.3 If the initial drafting was carried out in association with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), the following statement should be included under the heading “Publishing information”.

The initial drafting of this document was carried out in association with BEIS as part of their ongoing programme of support for standardization.

9.2.4 If acknowledgement of an exceptional personal contribution to drafting is required, the following wording should be included under the heading “Publishing information”.

BSI Committee [reference] takes collective responsibility for the preparation of this British Standard/part of BS XXXX. The Committee wishes to acknowledge the personal contribution of [Name].

9.3 Supersession

9.3.1 If any standards are being withdrawn and superseded on publication of the present document, the following wording should be included under the heading “Supersession”.

This British Standard/part of BS XXXX supersedes BS XXXX-X:[DATE], which is withdrawn.

or

This British Standard/part of BS XXXX supersedes/partially supersedes BS XXXX-X:[DATE], which is undergoing revision/is expected to be withdrawn in due course/will be withdrawn on [XX Month 20XX].

or

Together with BS EN XXXX, this British Standard/part of BS XXXX supersedes BS XXXX-X:[DATE], which is withdrawn.

or

BS 5678:2005+A1:2009 supersedes BS 5678:2005, which is withdrawn.

or

BS 1234:2009 supersedes BS 1234:2005+A1:2007, which is withdrawn.

9.3.2 If an amendment is published to a document that already includes a supersession statement, the original wording under the heading “Supersession” should be retained but changed to past tense, and the new wording added immediately above it, as follows.

BS 1234:2019+A1:2021 supersedes BS 1234:2019, which is withdrawn.

BS 5678:2019 superseded BS 5678:2008, which was withdrawn.

9.4 Relationship with other publications

9.4.1 If the document has a particular relationship with specific standards or other documents (e.g. it is one part of a series or is closely related to a European or international standard), this should be stated under the heading “Relationship with other publications”. Where the document is one part of a series, the following wording should be used.

BS XXXX is published in the following parts:

- Part 1: *Title*;
- Part 2: *Title*.

9.4.2 If the document is intended to be read in conjunction with another publication, the following wording should be included under the heading “Relationship with other publications”.

This British Standard/part of BS XXXX is intended to be read in conjunction with [reference].

9.4.3 For Published Documents giving non-contradictory complementary information to Eurocodes, the following wording should be included under the heading “Relationship with other publications”.

This Published Document is a background paper that gives non-contradictory complementary information for use in the UK with the Eurocode for [subject], BS EN XXXX, and its UK National Annex.

9.5 Information about this document

9.5.1 For full revisions, a similar statement to the following should be included under the heading “Information about this document”. This exact wording will not always be appropriate, e.g. if there are not enough principal changes to warrant a list. However, it is essential to clarify that the document is a full revision rather than a new edition, and to make some reference to the principal changes.

This is a full revision of the document, and introduces the following principal changes:

- [list items]
- [list items]

9.5.2 For new editions, the following wording should be included under the heading “Information about this document”.

This new edition of BS XXXX incorporates technical changes only. It does not represent a full review or revision of the document, which will be undertaken in due course.

or

This new edition of BS XXXX incorporates changes made necessary by the publication of BS EN XXXX. It does not represent a full review or revision of the document, which will be undertaken in due course.

9.5.3 For amendments, the following wording should be included under the heading “Information about this document”.

Text introduced or altered by Amendment(s) No. 1 (and No. 2, respectively) is indicated in the text by tags A₁ A₁ (and A₂ A₂). Minor editorial changes are not tagged.

9.5.4 For corrigenda, the following wording should be included under the heading “Information about this document”.

Text introduced or altered by Corrigendum No. 1 (Corrigenda Nos. 1 and 2, respectively) is indicated in the text by tags C₁ C₁ (and C₂ C₂). Minor editorial corrections are not tagged.

9.5.5 Where copyrighted material is used, the following wording should be included in the Foreword under the heading “Information about this document”, unless the copyright holder wishes to use a different form of wording (which might include a copyright symbol). (A corresponding note should be given in the main text; see **12.4**.)

Copyright is claimed in Figure X/Table X/definition **3.X**. The copyright holder is [Name, address].

9.5.6 If a British Standard is commended by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) for use in relation to the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, a similar statement to the following should be included under the heading “Information about this document”. The exact wording to be used should be obtained from the HSE in writing, together with official authorization to use the commendation. However, the following wording may be used as a starting point, with the Act cited as a bibliographic reference.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) commends the use of this British Standard/part of BS XXXX to those who have duties under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 [#]. This document was drawn up with the participation of HSE representatives and it will be referred to in the relevant HSE publications.

9.5.7 If a technical committee considers independent attestation of conformity to a British Standard desirable, a similar statement to the following should be included under the heading “Information about this document” and/or appear as a note at an appropriate point in the text. The wording may be adjusted according to the specific circumstances, e.g. if it is desirable for a user to select products or materials that have third-party certification.

Product certification/inspection/testing. Users of this British Standard/part of BS XXXX are advised to consider the desirability of third-party certification/inspection/testing of product conformity to this British Standard/part of BS XXXX. Appropriate conformity attestation arrangements are described in [appropriate ISO/IEC Standard or Guide or equivalent European standard]. Users seeking assistance in identifying appropriate conformity assessment bodies or schemes may ask BSI to forward their enquiries to the relevant association.

NOTE In choosing which ISO/IEC Guide or equivalent European standard to mention, the technical committee drafting the standard should take appropriate advice, if necessary, from the technical committee that develops such conformity attestation standards.

9.5.8 If SPSC gives official written approval for a standard to include a requirement for third-party conformity assessment, the following statement should be included under the heading “Information about this document”.

The Standards Policy and Strategy Committee of BSI has given official approval for this British Standard/part of BS XXXX to include a requirement for third-party conformity assessment (see BS 0:2021, 4.3.3.2).

9.5.9 If a technical committee considers independent assessment of quality systems desirable, the following statement should be included under the heading “Information about this document” and/or appear as a note at an appropriate point in the text.

Assessed capability. Users of this British Standard/part of BS XXXX are advised to consider the desirability of quality system assessment and registration against the appropriate standard in the BS EN ISO 9000 series by an accredited third-party certification body.

9.5.10 If a technical committee considers use of an accredited test laboratory desirable, the following statement should be included under the heading “Information about this document” and/or appear as a note at an appropriate point in the text.

Test laboratory accreditation. Users of this British Standard/part of BS XXXX are advised to consider the desirability of selecting test laboratories that are accredited to BS EN ISO/IEC 17025 by a national or international accreditation body.

9.5.11 If additional content is to be made available on the Knowledge page for users of the standard to download (e.g. template pro formas), the following wording should be included immediately before the two final paragraphs (see 9.5.12 and 9.5.13). The hyperlink should point to the specific home page of the standard rather than the generic Knowledge page.

Users are advised that additional content referred to in this publication can be accessed at knowledge.bsigroup.com.

9.5.12 The following wording should always be included as the penultimate item under the heading “Information about this document”.

This publication can be withdrawn, revised, partially superseded or superseded. Information regarding the status of this publication can be found in the Standards Catalogue on the BSI website at knowledge.bsigroup.com, or by contacting the Customer Services team.

9.5.13 The following wording should always be included as the final item under the heading “Information about this document”.

Where websites and webpages have been cited, they are provided for ease of reference and are correct at the time of publication. The location of a webpage or website, or its contents, cannot be guaranteed.

9.6 Hazard warnings

The following general wording should be included in the Foreword of any document that describes or relies upon tests and/or procedures that are considered dangerous to people or that involve the use of substances constituting a health hazard. The wording should be placed in a box, as shown, and should appear under the heading “Hazard warnings”.

WARNING. This British Standard/part of BS XXXX calls for the use of substances and/or procedures that can be injurious to health if adequate precautions are not taken. It refers only to technical suitability and does not absolve the user from legal obligations relating to health and safety at any stage.

Attention may then be drawn to individual hazards, with reference, if appropriate, to any authoritative publication, from an official, industrial or professional source, that defines good practice in relation to safety procedures. This may be either:

- a) in a list within the same box that does not purport to be exhaustive; or
- b) as one or more separate warnings, each within its own box.

If there are two or more warnings, they should appear in separate boxes.

Warnings of individual hazards may be placed in the Foreword and/or at appropriate points in the main text.

9.7 Use of this document

9.7.1 The following statement should be included in the Foreword of a code of practice under the heading “Use of this document”.

As a code of practice, this British Standard/part of BS XXXX takes the form of recommendations and guidance. It is not to be quoted as if it were a specification. Users are expected to ensure that claims of compliance are not misleading.

Users may substitute any of the recommendations in this British Standard/part of BS XXXX with practices of equivalent or better outcome. Any user claiming compliance with this British Standard/part of BS XXXX is expected to be able to justify any course of action that deviates from its recommendations.

9.7.2 The following statement should be included in the Foreword of a guide under the heading “Use of this document”.

As a guide, this British Standard/part of BS XXXX takes the form of guidance and advisory recommendations. It is not to be quoted as if it were a specification or a code of practice.

9.7.3 The following statement should be included in the Foreword of a method under the heading “Use of this document”.

This British Standard describes a method of [...] only. It is not to be used or quoted as if it were a specification [for ...].

9.7.4 If a statement is required regarding use of the document by appropriately qualified people, the following wording should be included under the heading “Use of this document”.

It has been assumed in the preparation of this British Standard/part of BS XXXX that the execution of its provisions will be entrusted to appropriately qualified and experienced people, for whose use it has been produced.

9.7.5 If permission is given for users of the document to reproduce content such as a figure or table, a similar statement to the following should be included under the heading “Use of this document”. The exact wording may be tailored to the relevant content (e.g. by referring to a pro forma or certificate instead of “model content”).

The copyright for [element] of this British Standard/part of BS XXXX is owned by BSI. Purchasers of this British Standard/part of BS XXXX are authorized to use the model content contained within [element], and to make an unlimited number of copies for their own use, without infringement of copyright. However, following the recommendations/requirements given in this British Standard/part of BS XXXX does not necessitate use of the model content.

9.7.6 For Published Documents only, the following wording should be included as the last item under the heading “Use of this document” if typesetting limitations preclude it from being given on the front cover.

This publication is not to be regarded as a British Standard.

9.8 Presentational conventions

9.8.1 The following two paragraphs should be included in the Foreword of a specification under the heading “Presentational conventions”.

The provisions of this document are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its requirements are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is “shall”.

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.

9.8.2 For a specification, if the committee feels that the way in which requirements are expressed might be open to interpretation, the following text may be inserted after the two standard paragraphs given in **9.8.1**.

Requirements in this document are drafted in accordance with the *Rules for the structure and drafting of UK standards:2022*, subclause **G.1.1**, which states, “Requirements should be expressed using wording such as: ‘When tested as described in Annex A, the product shall ...’”. This means that only those products that are capable of passing the specified test will be deemed to conform to this document.

9.8.3 The following two paragraphs should be included in the Foreword of a test method under the heading “Presentational conventions”.

The provisions of this document are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its methods are expressed as a set of instructions, a description, or in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is “shall”.

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.

9.8.4 The following two paragraphs should be included in the Foreword of a code of practice under the heading “Presentational conventions”.

The provisions of this document are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its recommendations are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is “should”.

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.

9.8.5 For a code of practice, if it is felt to be desirable, one or both of the following paragraphs may be inserted after the two standard paragraphs given in **9.8.4**.

The word “should” is used to express recommendations of this document. The word “may” is used in the text to express permissibility, e.g. a course of action that is permitted but is not a provision of the document. The word “can” is used to express possibility, e.g. a consequence of an action or an event.

Notes and commentaries are provided throughout the text of this document. Notes give references and additional information that are important but do not form part of the recommendations. Commentaries give background information.

9.8.6 The following two paragraphs should be included in the Foreword of a guide under the heading “Presentational conventions”.

The guidance in this document is presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Any recommendations are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is “should”.

Additional commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type.

9.8.7 The following two paragraphs should be included in the Foreword of a vocabulary under the heading “Presentational conventions”.

The definitions in this document are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type.

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.

9.8.8 The following paragraph should be included in all types of standard as the final item under the heading “Presentational conventions”.

Where words have alternative spellings, the preferred spelling of the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* is used (e.g. “organization” rather than “organisation”).

9.9 Contractual and legal considerations

9.9.1 The following paragraphs should be included at the end of the Foreword under the heading “Contractual and legal considerations”, followed if necessary by references to specific regulations.

This publication has been prepared in good faith, however no representation, warranty, assurance or undertaking (express or implied) is or will be made, and no responsibility or liability is or will be accepted by BSI in relation to the adequacy, accuracy, completeness or reasonableness of this publication. All and any such responsibility and liability is expressly disclaimed to the full extent permitted by the law.

This publication is provided as is, and is to be used at the recipient’s own risk.

The recipient is advised to consider seeking professional guidance with respect to its use of this publication.

This publication is not intended to constitute a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

9.9.2 In British Standards that are accorded statutory recognition as a means of complying with specific legal requirements, the statement given in **9.9.1** should be qualified by wording such as:

.... However, compliance with this British Standard/part of BS XXXX is cited in/under [reference] as a means of compliance with [Act/Regulations].

9.9.3 If references to specific items of legislation are needed, the following wording may be included after the end of the standard wording given in **9.9.1**:

In particular, attention is drawn to [Act/Regulation].

or

In particular, attention is drawn to the following specific [Acts and] regulations:

- [Act/Regulation] [#]
- [Act/Regulation] [#]

NOTE Lengthy lists of regulations should be avoided (see BS 0:2021, 9.2).

10 Normative references

10.1 If the document contains normative references, the following statement⁴⁾ should be included immediately under the “Normative references” heading, before the list of documents. If the normative references include both standards and non-standards references, the statement should appear before the “Standards publications” subheading.

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes provisions, or limits the application, of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

NOTE The normative references clause in BS 0:2021 includes an explanatory footnote. This footnote is not intended to be included as part of the standard wording in any other document.

10.2 If a publication is referenced both normatively and informatively, with an undated normative reference but a dated informative reference, the following statement should be included in a footnote to the normative reference.

This document also gives (an) informative reference(s) to BS XXXX:[DATE].

10.3 If the document does not contain any normative references, the following statement should be included under the “Normative references” heading.

There are no normative references in this document.

10.4 If the document contains references that are solely informative, the following statement should be included in a footnote, the marker for which should be placed either at the end of the first sentence of the text given in **10.1**, or at the end of the statement given in **10.3**, as appropriate.

Documents that are referred to solely in an informative manner are listed in the Bibliography.

⁴⁾ The wording of this statement is derived from the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2:2021, *Rules for the structure and drafting of International Standards*, amended to take into account the range of different document types as set out in the *Rules for the structure and drafting of UK standards:2022*.

11 Terms, definitions, symbols and abbreviated terms

11.1 Structure of the terms and definitions clause

The terms and definitions clause may be subdivided into a number of headings, in the following order:

- a) terms and definitions (always required);
- b) symbols (optional); and
- c) abbreviated terms (optional).

If the clause is subdivided, the overall clause title should reflect all of the subdivisions, i.e. “Terms, definitions, symbols and abbreviated terms”, “Terms, definitions and symbols” or “Terms, definitions and abbreviated terms”.

11.2 Terms and definitions

11.2.1 If the document contains terms and definitions, the following wording should be included under the “Terms and definitions” heading.

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in BS XXXX apply.

or

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in BS XXXX and the following apply.

or

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

11.2.2 If the document does not contain any terms and definitions, the following statement should be included under the “Terms and definitions” heading.

No terms and definitions are listed in this document.

11.3 Symbols

If a large number of symbols are used throughout the document, it can be useful to include a “Symbols” subclause. If a “Symbols” subclause is included, the following wording should appear above the list of symbols.

For the purposes of this document, the following symbols apply.

11.4 Abbreviated terms

If a large number of abbreviations are used throughout the document, it can be useful to include an “Abbreviated terms” subclause. If an “Abbreviated terms” subclause is included, the following wording should appear above the list of abbreviations.

For the purposes of this document, the following abbreviated terms apply.

12 Main text and annexes

12.1 Specifications providing for documented and agreed requirements

12.1.1 In a specification providing for documented and agreed requirements, the following wording should be included in the Scope.

In addition to the definitive requirements, this British Standard/part of BS XXXX also requires the items detailed in Clause X to be documented. For compliance with this British Standard/part of BS XXXX, both the definitive requirements and the documented items have to be met.

12.1.2 In a specification providing for documented and agreed requirements, the following wording should be used to introduce the information to be supplied by the purchaser.

The following information to be supplied by the purchaser shall be fully documented. For compliance with this British Standard/part of BS XXXX, both the definitive requirements specified throughout the document and the following documented items shall be satisfied.

12.1.3 In a specification providing for documented and agreed requirements, if options are specified at various points throughout the document, a checklist of them should be provided as a subclause or in an annex, introduced by the following statement.

If the purchaser wishes to take up any of the options given in this British Standard/part of BS XXXX (see Clause X), such options shall be specified and documented at the time of the enquiry and/or order. In the absence of such information, the manufacturer shall supply in accordance with the following.

12.1.4 In a specification providing for documented and agreed requirements, items for agreement should be given in a separate subclause, introduced by the following statement.

The following items to be agreed between the contracting parties are specified in the clauses referred to and shall be fully documented. For compliance with this British Standard/part of BS XXXX, both the definitive requirements specified throughout the document and the following documented items shall be satisfied.

12.2 Marking

Where a marking clause is given, the distinction between unilateral claims of compliance and third-party certification should be included in a footnote to the clause, worded as follows. If a standard containing a marking clause is amended, the date in the marking clause and the footnote does not have to be updated to include the amendment date. However, it might be useful to do so in certain circumstances, for example if the marking clause itself has been altered by the amendment.

Marking BS XXXX:[DATE] on or in relation to a product represents a manufacturer's declaration of conformity, i.e. a claim by or on behalf of the manufacturer that the product meets the requirements of the document. The accuracy of the claim is solely the claimant's responsibility. Such a declaration is not to be confused with third-party certification of conformity.

12.3 Trade names and commercially available products

12.3.1 If it is known that only one product is currently available that is suitable for the successful application of the document, the trade name or trademark of the product may be given in the text of the document but should be associated with a footnote as shown in the following example.

... [trade name or trademark of product] ... is the [trade name or trademark] of a product supplied by ... [supplier] This information is given for the convenience of users of this document and does not constitute an endorsement by BSI of the product named. Equivalent products may be used if they can be shown to lead to the same results.

12.3.2 If it is considered essential to give an example of commercially available products suitable for successful application of the document because the product characteristics are difficult to describe in detail, trade names or trademarks may be given in a footnote as shown in the following example.

... [trade name(s) or trademark(s) of product(s)] ... is (are) an example(s) of a suitable product(s) available commercially. This information is given for the convenience of users of this document and does not constitute an endorsement by BSI of this (these) product(s).

12.3.3 If it is considered essential for reasons of public interest or public safety to refer to commercially available products, trade names or trademarks may be provided, with a footnote as shown in the following example.

This (these) [trade name(s) or trademark(s)] is (are) provided for reasons of public interest or public safety. This information is given for the convenience of users of this document and does not constitute an endorsement by BSI.

12.4 Use of copyright material

Where a copyrighted drawing or table is used, it should be accompanied by the following note, unless the copyright holder wishes to use a different form of wording (which might include a copyright symbol). (A corresponding paragraph should be given in the Foreword; see **9.5.5**.)

NOTE Copyright is claimed in this illustration/table. Reproduction of this illustration/table and making products from it might infringe that copyright. Details of the copyright owner can be found in the Foreword.

12.5 References to legislation

If references to specific items of legislation are given in the text, the following statement should be included in a footnote immediately following the reference number.

Legislation might become out of date during the lifespan of this document. No reliance can be placed on this document as being a definite statement of a user's legal responsibilities or potential liabilities under legislation.

If there are many references to specific items of legislation throughout the document, this text may, exceptionally, be given in the Bibliography as a note under the “Other publications” heading, as an alternative to multiple repetitions.

13 Bibliography

The following statement should be included immediately before the list of standards publications in the bibliography. If a “Standards publications” heading is given, the statement should appear after the heading.

For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

In the case of undated references, if the latest edition is a British Standard with a new number, it can be helpful to draw attention to the fact with a footnote.

14 Index

If commentaries are referred to in an index, the following note should be included before the first entry:

NOTE The suffix “Comm” indicates that the reference is contained within the Commentary section of the relevant clause or subclause.

15 Inside back cover

The inside back cover is either the final page of content or a blank page (see **2.1**).

16 Back cover

The back cover contains information about BSI, standards, copyright, subscriptions, contacts, etc. It is automatically generated at publication stage and cannot be altered.

Annex A (informative)

Visual reference guide

This annex is a visual reference to the layout and typography to be employed when typesetting British Standards of UK origin. It shows examples of the common elements of a British Standard from the front cover through to the back cover.

The designation “BS 1234-5” running through the document is intended as a visual example only and is not to be confused with any published British Standard.

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BS 1234-2:2026

BSI Standards Publication

Visual reference guide – British Standards of
UK origin

Part 2: Dummy part title



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Draft for comment 24/30001234 DC

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Text affected
August 2022	C1
April 2024	A1: See Foreword for details.

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i to iv, pages 1 to 22, an inside back cover and a back cover.

Foreword

Publishing information

This part of BS 1234 is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 28 February 2026. It was prepared by Technical Committee VRG/1, *Style guides*. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to the committee manager.

Supersession

This part of BS 1234 supersedes BS 1234-2:2022, which is withdrawn.

Relationship with other publications

BS 1234 is published in three parts:

- Part 1: *General requirements*;
- Part 2: *Specific requirements*;
- Part 3: *Recommendations and guidance*.

Information about this document

Where appropriate, this element gives information such as:

- details of principal changes from a previous edition;
- details of any problems in preparation of the document (e.g. matters omitted because agreement could not be reached);
- acknowledgement of copyright material; and
- information regarding independent conformity attestation or assessment.

This publication can be withdrawn, revised, partially superseded or superseded. Information regarding the status of this publication can be found in the Standards Catalogue on the BSI website at knowledge.bsigroup.com, or by contacting the Customer Services team.

Where websites and webpages have been cited, they are provided for ease of reference and are correct at the time of publication. The location of a webpage or website, or its contents, cannot be guaranteed.

Hazard warnings

This element can contain the standard hazard warning as given below, and can also give details of specific hazards that might arise.

WARNING. This British Standard calls for the use of substances and/or procedures that can be injurious to health if adequate precautions are not taken. It refers only to technical suitability and does not absolve the user from legal obligations relating to health and safety at any stage.
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Use of this document

As a code of practice, this part of BS 1234 takes the form of recommendations and guidance. It is not to be quoted as if it were a specification. Users are expected to ensure that claims of compliance are not misleading.

Users may substitute any of the recommendations in this part of BS 1234 with practices of equivalent or better outcome. Any user claiming compliance with this part of BS 1234 is expected to be able to justify any course of action that deviates from its recommendations.

The copyright for Figure X of this part of BS 1234 is owned by BSI. Purchasers of this part of BS 1234 are authorized to use the model content contained within Figure X, and to make an unlimited number of copies for their own use, without infringement of copyright. However, following the recommendations given in this part of BS 1234 does not necessitate use of the model content.

Presentational conventions

The provisions of this document are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its recommendations are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is “should”.

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.

Where words have alternative spellings, the preferred spelling of the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* is used (e.g. “organization” rather than “organisation”).

Contractual and legal considerations

This publication has been prepared in good faith, however no representation, warranty, assurance or undertaking (express or implied) is or will be made, and no responsibility or liability is or will be accepted by BSI in relation to the adequacy, accuracy, completeness or reasonableness of this publication. All and any such responsibility and liability is expressly disclaimed to the full extent permitted by the law.

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This publication is not intended to constitute a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

In particular, attention is drawn to the Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996 [1]¹⁾.

¹⁾ Legislation might become out of date during the lifespan of this document. No reliance can be placed on this document as being a definite statement of a user’s legal responsibilities or potential liabilities under legislation.

Section 1 Basic layout and preliminary elements

Introduction

The visual reference guide was developed to show how the most common elements of a standard appear in the typeset document as opposed to a working draft.

1 Scope

This guide gives visual examples of all the common elements in a British Standard. Where examples are taken from published standards, a note to this effect is given in the text.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes provisions, or limits the application, of this document²⁾. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

Standards publications

[BS 5499-4](#), *Safety signs – Part 4: Code of practice for escape route signing*

[BS 9991](#), *Fire safety in the design, management and use of residential buildings – Code of practice*³⁾

[BS EN 12845](#), *Fixed firefighting systems – Automatic sprinkler systems – Design, installation and maintenance*

[BS ISO 14520](#) (all parts), *Gaseous fire-extinguishing systems – Physical properties and system design*

Other publications

[N1] OIL COMPANIES INTERNATIONAL MARINE FORUM (OCIMF). *Mooring equipment guidelines*. Third edition (MEG3). London: OCIMF, 2007.

[N2] HARRISON, R. and MILES, S. *Smoke shafts protecting fire-fighting shafts; their performance and design*. BRE Project Report 79204. Watford: Building Research Establishment, 2002.

3 Terms, definitions, symbols and abbreviated terms

3.1 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1.1 competent person

person, suitably trained and qualified by knowledge and practical experience, and provided with the necessary instructions, to enable the required task(s) to be carried out correctly

²⁾ Documents that are referred to solely in an informative manner are listed in the Bibliography.

³⁾ This British Standard also gives informative references to [BS 9991:2024](#).

3.1.2 dampers

3.1.2.1 fire damper

device affording fire resistance in respect of integrity, intended to seal automatically a penetration in fire-resisting construction in the event of fire

NOTE These are typically used within heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems to maintain the compartmentation afforded by a compartment wall or compartment floor.

[SOURCE: BS 4422:2024, 3.107]

3.1.2.2 fire damper, reduced leakage

fire damper designed to restrict the passage of smoke

NOTE These are typically used within heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems to maintain the fire resistance, and protect against passage of smoke, in construction that separates a means of escape from adjacent accommodation.

[SOURCE: BS 4422:2024, 3.108]

3.1.2.3 smoke control damper

component of a smoke control system that can be opened or closed to control the flow of smoke and hot gases into, from or within a shaft or duct, whilst maintaining compartmentation where necessary

[SOURCE: BS 4422:2024, 3.251]

3.1.3 separated part

<of a building> part of a building that is separated from another part of the same building by a compartment wall that runs the full height of the part and is in one vertical plane

[SOURCE: BS 9991:2024, 3.19]

3.2 Symbols

For the purposes of this document, the following symbols apply.

B	beam of vessel, in metres (m)
D_v	draught of vessel, in metres (m)
d	deflection at the level of the application of the load, in metres (m)
E_c	characteristic energy to be absorbed by the fendering system, in kilonewton metres (kN·m)
E_D	design energy to be absorbed by the fendering system, in kilonewton metres (kN·m)
α	angle of approach of a vessel
γ	angle between the line joining the point of contact to the centre of mass of a vessel and the normal to the axis of the vessel

3.3 Abbreviated terms

For the purposes of this document, the following abbreviated terms apply.

AGI	above ground installation
ALARP	as low as reasonably practicable
CE	carbon equivalent
CIPS	close interval potential survey

4 Clause structure

4.1 Primary subclauses

This is an example of a primary subclause (level 2 heading). Primary subclauses may be included in the contents page.

Subclause headings should be used only if there are at least two subdivisions (e.g. there should not be a 4.1 unless there is also a 4.2).

To avoid hanging paragraphs at any subclause level, the heading “General” may be used.

4.2 Subdivisions

4.2.1 Secondary subclauses

Primary subclauses can be further divided. This is an example of a secondary clause (level 3 heading). Secondary subclauses may be included in the contents page.

4.2.2 Further levels of subdivision

4.2.2.1 Tertiary subclauses

This is an example of a tertiary subclause (level 4 heading).

Headings can go down to five levels, but commonly do not go below four.

4.2.2.2 Numbered paragraphs

4.2.2.2.1 This is an example of a numbered paragraph, as opposed to a heading. Paragraphs in a single subclause at any level should be either all numbered, or all not numbered.

4.2.2.2.2 Numbered paragraphs should not be mixed with numbered headings at the same level.

4.2.2.2.3 If there is only one paragraph in the subclause, it should not be numbered.

4.2.2.2.4 Numbered paragraphs can go down to six levels, but commonly do not go below five.

4.2.2.3 Level 5 headings

4.2.2.3.1 A level 5 heading

This is an example of the fifth and last level of heading.

4.2.2.3.2 Another level 5 heading

As with all other subdivisions, a heading at this level can be used only if there are two of them.

4.3 Items of apparatus

4.3.1 *Apparatus item 1.* In a list of items of apparatus (including lists of reagents, etc.), the items are formatted as numbered paragraphs, with the name of the item in italic and any supporting text in roman type.

4.3.2 *Apparatus item 2.* Unlike numbered paragraphs, items of apparatus may be numbered even if there is only a single item.

Section 2 Specific elements of text

5 Notes, commentaries, footnotes and examples

5.1 Notes

Notes usually relate to a single paragraph and are placed below that paragraph; if they apply to a whole clause or subclause, they are normally placed at the beginning.

NOTE 1 An example of a note in the text.

Standard items of informative wording, such as an assessed capability notice or a warning, are also placed below the relevant text, as shown here. When prefaced by a statement such as an “Assessed capability”, “WARNING”, etc., there is no need for the word “NOTE” or “COMMENTARY” to be given.

Assessed capability. *Users of this British Standard are advised to consider the desirability of quality system assessment and registration against the appropriate standard in the [BS EN ISO 9000](#) series by an accredited third-party certification body.*

If a note applies to a specific item in a list, it should align with the text of the list item, for example:

a) list item 1;

NOTE 2 Note to list item 1.

b) list item 2;

1) indented list item 1; and

NOTE 3 Note to indented list item 1.

2) indented list item 2.

Where more than one note appears in a single clause or subclause, the notes should be numbered consecutively throughout that clause/subclause, regardless of whether they appear as part of a list.

5.2 Commentaries

5.2.1 Commentary applying to a single subclause

COMMENTARY ON 5.2.1

Commentaries give background information to the subject of a clause or subclause, and therefore appear at the beginning of the clause or subclause to which they relate, before the body text.

Where a commentary precedes the body text in a single subclause, the text simply follows on from it, as shown here.

5.2.2 Commentary applying to a subdivided clause or subclause

COMMENTARY ON 5.2.2

If a commentary applies to an entire clause or subclause, it appears before the first subheading, as shown here. This does not count as hanging text. The same principle applies to notes.

5.2.2.1 First heading below commentary

The commentary in this example relates to the whole of [5.2.2](#), not just to the present subclause, so it is placed before the first subheading.

5.2.2.2 **Second heading below commentary**

The commentary applies to this subclause as well.

5.3 **Footnotes**

Footnotes to the text are always placed at the bottom of the page on which the footnote reference appears.⁴⁾ ⁵⁾

If the same footnote appears more than once on a page, the same footnote number is used for all occurrences on that page.⁴⁾

Footnotes to tables are placed on the last page of the table in which the footnote reference appears (see [Clause 9](#)).

5.4 **Examples**

Examples are placed below the relevant text.

EXAMPLE 1 Simple examples appear on the same line as the identifier, separated by an em space.

EXAMPLE 2

More complex examples appear on a separate line, below the identifier.

6 **Warnings and cautions**

Warnings and cautions are boxed. The word “WARNING” or “CAUTION” appears in bold, with the body or the warning or caution in roman type, as follows.

WARNING. This British Standard calls for the use of substances and/or procedures that can be injurious to health if adequate precautions are not taken. It refers only to technical suitability and does not absolve the user from legal obligations relating to health and safety at any stage.

7 **Lists**

7.1 **Unordered lists (bullet lists)**

This is an example of a typical paragraph of body text followed by a bullet list. The bullet list contains items that are in no particular order and are therefore unnumbered. The text that introduces the list is not a complete sentence, so the items begin with a lower case letter and are separated by semi-colons. For example:

- bullet point;
- bullet point; and
- bullet point.

⁴⁾ An example of a footnote.
⁵⁾ An example of a second footnote.

7.2 Ordered lists

7.2.1 Simple lists

This is an example of a typical paragraph of body text followed by an ordered list. It is the first primary list in the subclause, so the items are identified by lower case Latin letters. The list items are aligned with the body text. The text that introduces the list is a complete sentence, so the list items also form complete sentences.

- a) This is the first item in the list.
- b) This is the second item in the list.
- c) This is the third item in the list.

This paragraph is followed by another ordered list. It is the second primary list in the subclause, so the items are identified by Arabic numerals. As it is another primary list, it is aligned with the body text. For example:

- 1) first list item;
- 2) second list item; and
- 3) third list item.

It is possible to have up to three ordered lists in a single subclause. The items in the third primary list are identified by lower case Roman letters, as follows:

- i) first list item;
- ii) second list item; and
- iii) third list item.

If a fourth list is required in the subclause, it would have to be a bullet list (see [7.1](#)).

7.2.2 Complex lists

This paragraph introduces a list that is subdivided. The secondary lists are indented.

- a) This is the first list item, and is subdivided into numbered items as follows:
 - 1) first secondary item;
 - 2) second secondary item; and
 - 3) third secondary item.
- b) This is the second list item. It is also subdivided into numbered items, but this time the secondary list consists of whole sentences, and one of the items is further subdivided.
 - 1) This is the first item in the secondary list.
 - 2) This is the second item in the secondary list, subdivided as follows:
 - i) first tertiary item; and
 - ii) second tertiary item.
 - 3) This is the third item in the secondary list.
- c) This is the third list item. It is subdivided into unnumbered items, as follows:
 - bullet point;
 - bullet point; and
 - bullet point.

This paragraph introduces a second subdivided list. This list is taken from a published British Standard and shows how bold type can be used to emphasize the topic of each list item. It is a primary list, so it is aligned with the body text.

1) **Fire safety notices** are used:

- to inform and instruct building occupants of measures to be taken to maintain the integrity of passive fire protection, e.g. “Fire door keep shut”; and
- to instruct and inform building occupants of the actions to be taken in conjunction with fire alarms, evacuation procedures and/or emergency planning.

2) **Hazard warning signs** are used to identify locations where there are specific risks associated with actions or procedures deemed to be hazardous.

Bullet lists can also be subdivided, but if the list is long then it is advisable to change it to an ordered list, for ease of use.

8 Figures

NOTE All of the figures shown in this clause are taken or adapted from published standards.

Figure 1 shows an example of a figure with dimensions and a bullet list in the key.

Figure 2 shows an example of a figure with a side-by-side key. Keys are usually placed below the drawing, but may be placed next to the drawing to save space.

Figure 3 shows an example of a subdivided figure with a more complex key and a note. Keys can include letters and graphics as well as numbers.

Figure 4 shows an example of a subdivided landscape figure with a two-column key.

Figures should be placed as close as possible to the point where they are first referred to in the text, but this does not necessarily have to be immediately after the reference; the text should be arranged in such a way as to minimize the amount of white space (e.g. before a landscape page).

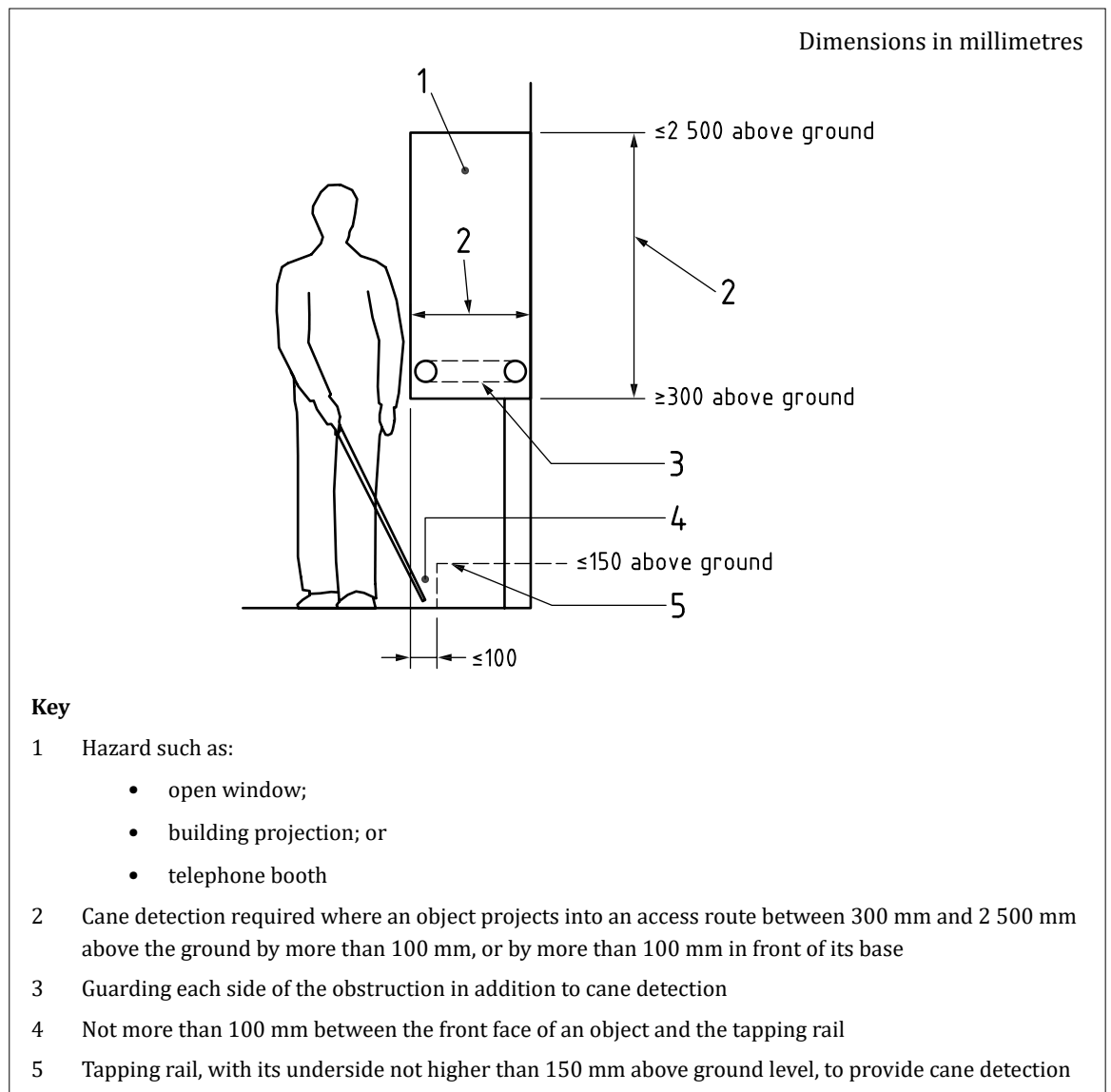
Figure 1 — Projections into an access route that need hazard protection

Figure 2 — *Roof covering adjoining line of compartmentation*

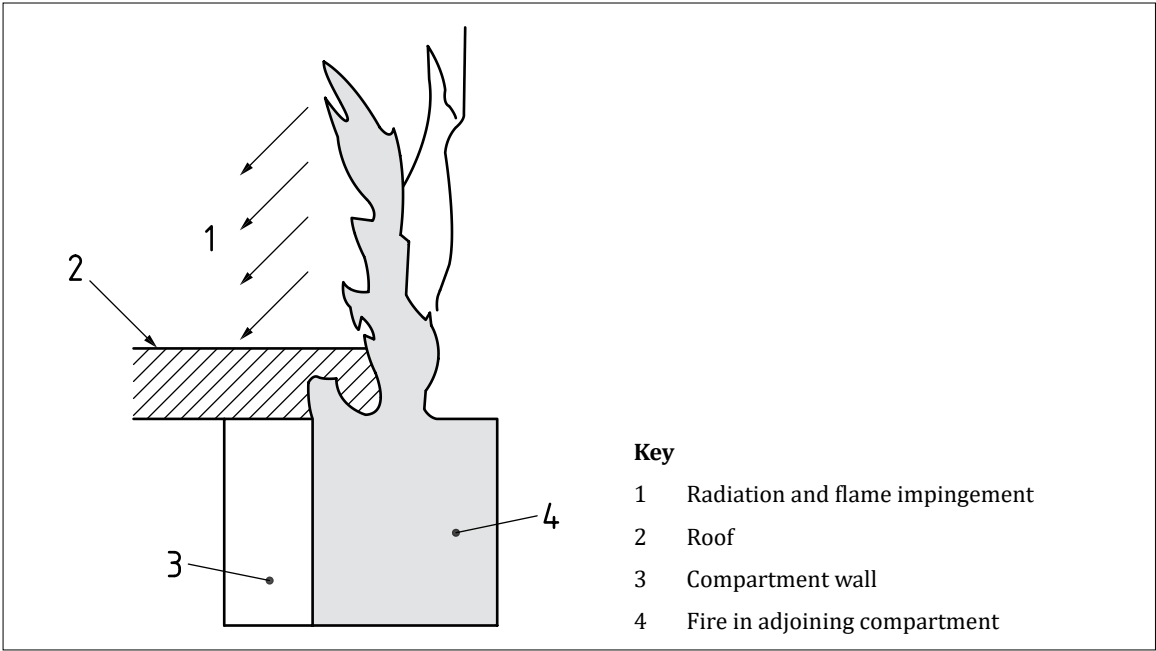


Figure 3 — Provisions for external surfaces of walls

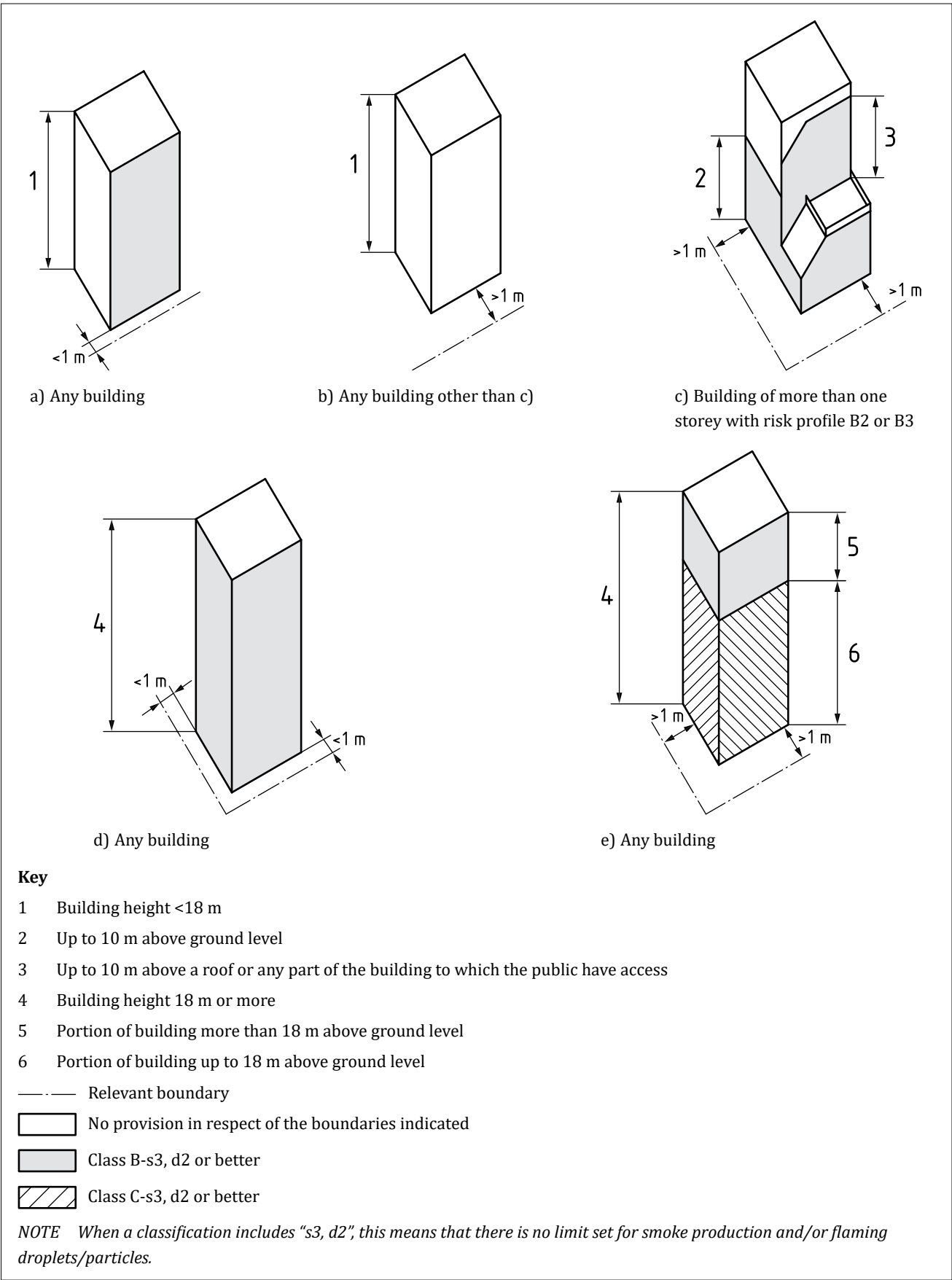
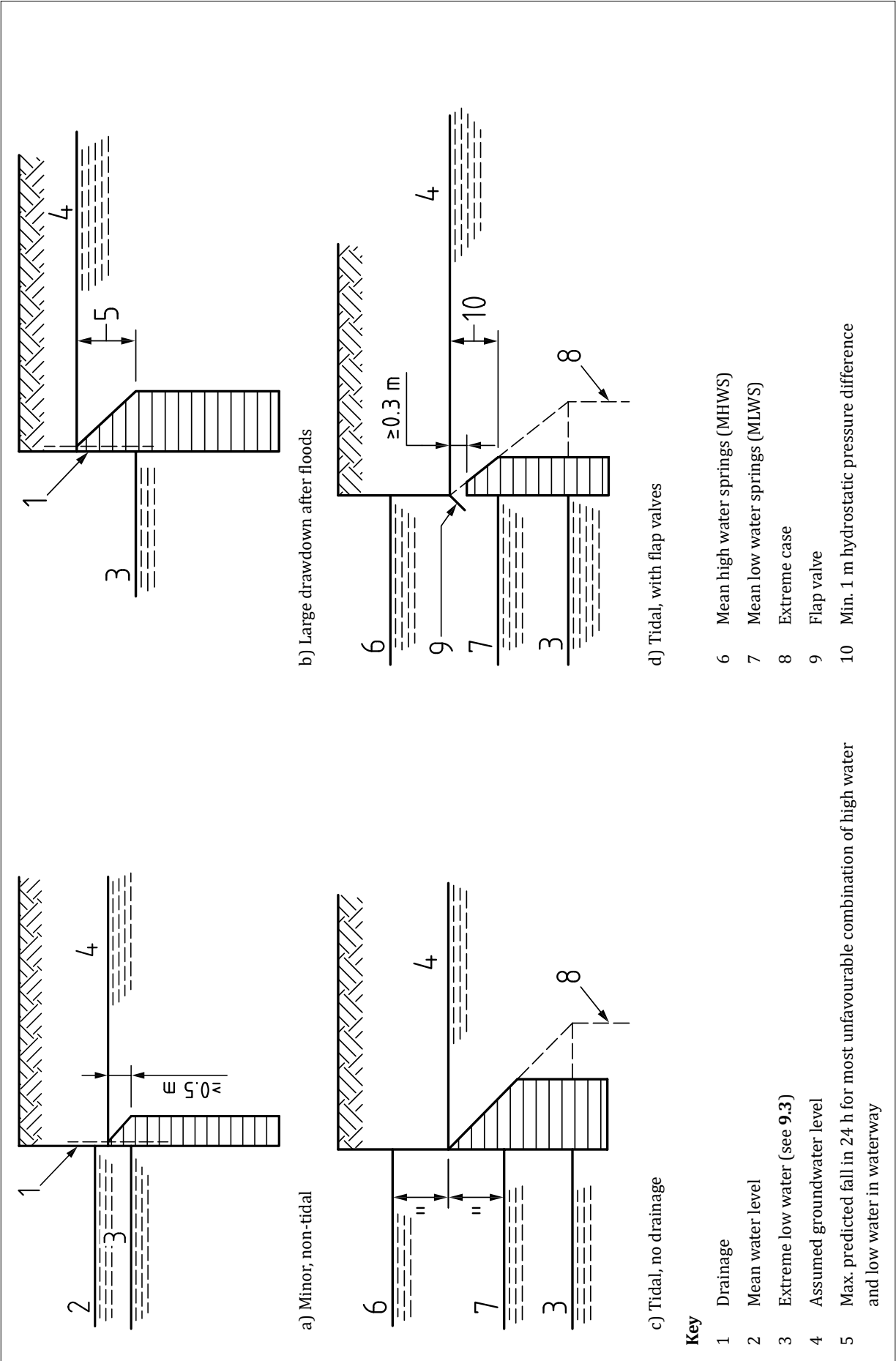


Figure 4 — Hydrostatic pressure distribution on waterfront structures where soil is retained to full height of structure



9 Tables

NOTE The tables shown in this clause are taken or adapted from tables in published standards.

Table 1 is an example of a simple text-width table, with dimensions that apply to specific columns. Rules are used only where they are necessary to articulate the table; in this example they were not deemed to be necessary.

Table 1 — Accuracy of finish

Surface	Maximum permissible depth of the gap beneath a 3 m straight edge or a template	
	Machine-laid	Hand-laid
	mm	mm
Base	25	25
Binder course	13	13
Regulating course below surface course	13	13
Surface course	7	10

Table 2 is an example of a full-page-width table, with dimensions that apply to the whole table.

Table 2 — Width required at the side of a vehicle or between vehicles in a car park

Activity (90% of users accommodated)	Dimensions in millimetres			
	Self-propelled wheelchair	Electrically propelled wheelchair	Attendant pushed wheelchair	Electric mobility scooter
Moving in a straight line	1 050	950	950	1 000
Turning 180° at the side of a vehicle	1 500	1 625	1 800	2 200

Table 3 is an example of a full-page-width table with complex footnotes.

Table 3 — Anchor materials used to minimize the risk of corrosion

Application condition	Anchor materials for required duration ^{A), B)}		
	Short term	Medium term	Long term
Dry internal	FE-Zn	FE-Zn	FE-Zn
Internal humid, no chlorides, or acid condensates	FE-Zn	HDG +	SS A2 SS D2
External ^{C)} – rural, urban, light industrial areas with light/modest pollution. Internal permanently damp	HDG +	HDG +	SS A2 SS D2
External ^{C)} – industrial or coastal but not immersed or splash zone, see special applications	HDG +	SS A4 SS D4	SS A4 SS A5 SS D4 SS D6
Special applications ^{D)}	Special alloys of stainless steel		

^{A)} Approximate duration:

- short term = ≤2 years;
- medium term = ≤10 years; and
- long term = ≤50 years.

^{B)} Materials:

- FE-Zn = zinc-plated carbon steel with or without chromate passivation;
- HDG + = Hot dip galvanized carbon steel and other coating processes such as sherardizing;
- stainless steel grades:
 - SS A2 = austenitic stainless steel grade A2 as defined in [BS EN ISO 3506-1:2009](#), Table 1 – suitable alloy 1.430 1 as defined in [BS EN 10088-1:2005](#) (grade A2 will eventually stain);
 - SS A4 = austenitic stainless steel grade A4 – suitable alloys 1.440 1; 1.443 6 (grade A4 is unlikely to stain in normal use);
 - SS A5 = austenitic stainless steel grade A5 – suitable alloy 1.457 1;
 - SS D2 = duplex stainless steel grade D2 – suitable alloys 1.416 2; 1.406 2; 1.448 2 (a revision to include these materials in [BS EN ISO 3506-1](#) and [BS EN ISO 3506-2](#) is currently in process);
 - SS D4 = duplex stainless steel grade D4 – suitable alloy 1.436 2; and
 - SS D6 = duplex stainless steel grade D6 – suitable alloy 1.446 2; and
- special alloys of stainless steel = high corrosion-resistant stainless steels of the duplex type and austenitic steels with higher alloy content than A4 (sometimes referred to as grade C or HCR) – suitable alloys 1.452 9 and 1.456 5.

^{C)} External applications involve normal conditions with no exceptional pollutants.

^{D)} Special applications include: permanent or alternating immersion in sea water or the splash zone of marine installations, chloride atmospheres of swimming pools (especially those within roof spaces), atmospheres with high chemical pollution such as road tunnels and other road and rail applications where de-icing salts are used, desulfurization plants, and others.

Table 4 is an example of a table incorporating drawings.

Table 4 — *Widths for access at the side and the rear of a vehicle or between vehicles in a car park*

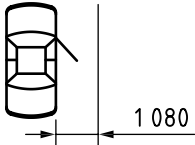
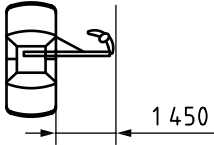
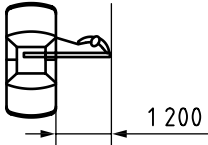
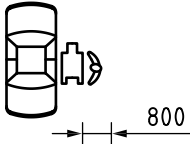
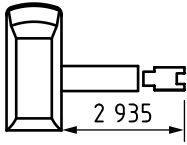
Activity by a person in a self-propelled wheelchair	Space required ^{A)}
	mm
a) Opening a vehicle door (two-door vehicle)	
b) Using a roof hoist with an assistant	
c) Using an internal hoist with an assistant	
d) Being helped by an assistant (width for the assistant)	
e) Using a ramp at the side of a vehicle (max.) (height from ground to vehicle floor = 560 mm)	
^{A)} Based on CAD measurements.	

Table 5 is an example of a landscape table with additional rules.

Table 5 — Minimum fire resistance performance

Part of building	Minimum provisions when tested to the relevant part of BS 476 ^{A)} , in minutes			Minimum provisions when classified to the relevant European standard ^{B)} , in minutes			Method of exposure
	Load-bearing capacity ^{C)}	Integrity	Insulation	Load-bearing capacity ^{C)}	Integrity	Insulation	
Structural frame, beam or column	See Table 6 or Table 7	Not applicable	Not applicable	See Table 6 or Table 7	Not applicable	Not applicable	Exposed faces
Roof							
Any part forming an escape route	30	30	30	30	30	30	
Any roof that performs the function of a floor	See Table 6 or Table 7	See Table 6 or Table 7	See Table 6 or Table 7	See Table 6 or Table 7	See Table 6 or Table 7	See Table 6 or Table 7	From underside ^{D)}
External wall							
Any part less than 1 m away from any point on the relevant boundary	See Table 6 or Table 7	See Table 6 or Table 7	See Table 6 or Table 7	See Table 6 or Table 7	See Table 6 or Table 7	See Table 6 or Table 7	Each side separately
Any part 1 m or more from the relevant boundary ^{E)}	See Table 6 or Table 7	See Table 6 or Table 7	15	See Table 6 or Table 7	See Table 6 or Table 7	15	From inside the building
Any part adjacent to an external escape route	30	30	No provision ^{F), G)}	30	30	No provision ^{F), G)}	From inside the building

A) BS 476-21 for load-bearing elements, BS 476-22 for non-load-bearing elements, BS 476-23 for fire-protecting suspended ceilings, and BS 476-24 for ventilation ducts.

B) The national classifications do not automatically equate with the equivalent classifications in the European column; therefore products cannot typically assume a European class unless they have been tested and classified in accordance with BS EN 13501-2:2023.

C) “R” rating applies to load-bearing elements only.

D) If a suspended ceiling is used, it should be in accordance with 22.4 and 26.2.

E) Clause 24 allows such walls to contain areas that need not be fire-resisting (unprotected areas).

F) Unless needed to meet the recommendations given in Clause 24.

G) Except for any limitations on glazed elements given in Clause 28.

10 Equations

The following example shows how equations are set and numbered within the main text of a standard. In an annex, the equation number would be prefaced by the annex identifier, e.g. (A.1).

$$A = \left(1 - \frac{\rho}{\rho_{\max}} \right) \times 100 \quad (1)$$

where:

- A is the air void content, as a percentage (%);
- ρ is the bulk density, determined in accordance with [BS EN 12697-6](#), in megagrams per cubic metre (Mg/m³); and
- $\rho_{\max}$ is the maximum density in accordance with [BS EN 12697-5](#), in megagrams per cubic metre (Mg/m³).

Annex A (normative)

Example of normative annex heading

A.1 Subdivisions in annexes

A.1.1 General

Annexes can be subdivided in the same way as clauses. The same rules for subdivision apply (i.e. no hanging paragraphs). Annexes can be either normative or informative.

A.1.2 Lower levels of subdivision

Annexes can have the same number of subdivided clauses as the main text, i.e. headings can go down to five levels, although commonly they do not go below four. This sample annex shows two levels of subdivision.

A.2 Figures and tables in annexes

Figures and tables in annexes are presented in exactly the same way as those in the main text, except that the figure/table number is preceded by the annex identifier, e.g. “Figure A.1”, “Table B.2”.

If a standard contains sample certificates, they are usually presented in the form of figures within an informative annex, as they are effectively illustrations. They can then be cited directly in the text (and in the Foreword, if permission is given to reproduce them). Figure A.1 shows an example of a certificate, which is a cut-down version of one that appears in a published British Standard. Figure A.1 is also an example of a figure that is split across two pages.

Figure A.1 — *Example of a certificate for test and examination after installation of lifting platform*

1. Description

Location

Manufacturer

Lifting platform serial no

Electrical supply V . . . phase Hz

Travel m

Number of levels served

Rated load kg

Rated speed m/s

2. Examinations and tests

2.1 All lifting platforms

(a) Earthing arrangements

Is the lifting platform bonded to earth by a separate protective conductor?

Is metalwork enclosing live electrical conductors bonded to the main earthing terminal by protective conductors?

Does the resistance of the earth protective path exceed 0.1 Ω?

Figure A.1 — Example of a certificate for test and examination after installation of lifting platform (continued)

(b) Voltages	
Mains voltage at time of test V	
Control circuit voltage at full load V	
Is the polarity of the mains correct [see BS 6440:2011, 7.8c)]?	
(c) Carrier under-surface protection (see BS 6440:2011, 9.9.1)	
Are sensitive surfaces/edges provided?	
Do safety devices operate correctly?	
(d) Levelling accuracy	
Is the stopping accuracy of the carrier ± 10 mm?	
Is the re-levelling accuracy of the carrier ± 20 mm?	
In response to operation of an electric safety device is the stopping distance of the carrier, except for safety edges and surfaces no greater than 20 mm?	
3. Conformity	
Does the lifting platform conform to BS 6440:2011?	Yes ☐
	No ☐
If NO, state reasons:	
.	
.	
4. Declaration	
I/we certify that on the lifting platform at was installed and examined to the manufacturer's instructions. This certificate gives an accurate report of the results of the examination.	
Signature(s)	
Qualification(s)	
Address	
.	
Date	

Annex B (informative)

Run-on annex heading

This is to demonstrate what an annex heading looks like if it runs straight on after the previous annex rather than starting at the top of a new page.

Most annexes run on. However, there are occasions where it is preferable for each annex to be presented on a separate page, e.g. if different annexes are aimed at a different audience.

It is also acceptable to force an annex to start a new page if it would improve the layout, e.g. if the annex starts with a one-line note and has its first heading on the subsequent page.

Annex C (informative)

Notes on Bibliography and index

C.1 Notes on the sample Bibliography

Standards publications in the Bibliography are presented in alphanumerical order. Other publications are numbered and presented in the order in which they are first cited in the text.

If there is a “Further reading” section, the references are listed in alphabetical order by author.

C.2 Notes on the sample index

The sample index is taken from a published British Standard.

It shows an example of an index where multiple publications are referred to, with a key.

Bibliography

Standards publications

For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

BS 5252, *Framework for colour co-ordination for building purposes*

BS 5395-1, *Stairs – Part 1: Code of practice for the design of stairs with straight flights and winders*

BS 6465 (all parts), *Sanitary installations*

BS EN 62489-1, *Electroacoustics – Audio-frequency induction loop systems for assisted hearing – Part 1: Methods of measuring and specifying the performance of system components*

BS EN ISO 1182, *Reaction to fire tests for products – Non-combustibility test*

CEN/CENELEC Guide 6, *Guide for addressing accessibility in standards*

DD CEN/TS 14816, *Fixed firefighting systems – Water spray systems – Design and installation*

ISO 21542, *Building construction – Accessibility and usability of the built environment*

PAS 7 (withdrawn), *Fire risk management systems – Specification*

PD 6520, *Guide to fire test methods for building materials and elements of construction*

Other publications

- [1] GREAT BRITAIN. Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996. London: HMSO.
- [2] HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE. *Safety signs and signals – The Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996 – Guidance on regulations*. L64. Third edition. London: HSE Books, 1996.
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