

Specification for

Fireman's axe with rubber insulated handle

Confirmed
January 2011

Co-operating organizations

The Mechanical Engineering Industry Standards Committee, under whose supervision this British Standard was prepared, consists of representatives from the following Government departments and scientific and industrial organizations:

Admiralty*
 Air Ministry
 Associated Offices' Technical Committee
 Association of Consulting Engineers (Incorporated)
 British Chemical Plant Manufacturers' Association
 British Compressed Air Society
 British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers' Association
 British Engineers' Association*
 British Gear Manufacturers Association
 British Internal Combustion Engine Manufacturers' Association
 British Iron and Steel Federation*
 British Railways, the British Transport Commission*
 Crown Agents for Oversea Governments and Administrations
 D.S.I.R. — Mechanical Engineering Research Laboratory
 Electricity Council, the Generating Board and the Area Boards in England and Wales
 Engineering Equipment Users' Association*
 Gas Council
 High Commission of India
 Institute of Marine Engineers
 Institute of Petroleum
 Institution of Civil Engineers
 Institution of Gas Engineers
 Institution of Heating and Ventilating Engineers
 Institution of Mechanical Engineers
 Institution of Mechanical Engineers (Automobile Division)
 Institution of Production Engineers*
 Locomotive and Allied Manufacturers' Association of Great Britain
 Machine Tool Trades' Association
 Ministry of Labour and National Service (Factory Inspectorate)
 Ministry of Power
 Ministry of Supply*
 Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation*
 Ministry of Works
 National Coal Board*
 National Physical Laboratory (D.S.I.R.)
 Radio Industry Council
 War Office

The Government departments and scientific and industrial organizations marked with an asterisk in the list on the preceding page, together with the following, were directly represented on the Committee entrusted with the preparation of this standard:

Association of Municipal Corporations
 Association of U.K. Plier Manufacturers
 British Fire Services Association
 Chief Fire Officers' Association
 County Councils Association
 Edge Tool Manufacturers Association
 Engineers and Allied Hand Tool Makers Association
 Federation of British Hand Tool Manufacturers
 Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors
 Forestry Commission
 Handle Manufacturers Association
 Home Office
 Incorporated British Institute of Certified Carpenters
 Institute of Public Supplies Officers
 Institution of Engineering Inspection
 J.E.S.C. Sub-committee on Hand Tools
 Light Edge Tool and Allied Trades Association
 London County Council
 London Transport Executive. The British Transport Commission

This British Standard, having been approved by the Mechanical Engineering Industry Standards Committee and endorsed by the Chairman of the Engineering Divisional Council, was published under the authority of the General Council on 24 March 1959

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

Committee references MEE/120, MEE/120/6, MEE/120/6/3
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Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
National Association of Drop Forgers and Stampers
National Association of Tool Dealers
National Federation of Building Trades Employers
National Federation of Ironmongers
National Institute of Agricultural Engineering
National Union of Furniture Trade Operatives
Post Office
Purchasing Officers Association
Royal Horticultural Society
Rural District Councils Association
Saw Trade Association
Society of British Aircraft Constructors
Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders Ltd.
Urban District Councils Association
Individual Axe Manufacturers

Amendments issued since publication

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Foreword

This standard makes reference to the following British Standards:

BS 860, *Table of approximate comparison of hardness scales.*

BS 903, *Methods of testing vulcanized rubber.*

BS 970, *Wrought steels.*

BS 2957, *Fireman's axe with ash handle.*

This British Standard has been prepared with the active collaboration of the Home Office, Factories Inspectorate and Fire Service representatives, the prime objectives being to ensure that the tools are suited to Fire Services conditions and that they will be interchangeable with the ash handled axe¹⁾ in the normal pouch.

It must be clearly understood that the insulated handled axe is not intended as a piece of special equipment which will permit personnel deliberately to operate on electrical circuits; but should rather be regarded as a tool that could give an added degree of safety in circumstances where a live circuit may be accidentally contacted. The fact that the handle of the axe is covered with an insulant is not in itself a guarantee that the user is safe from electric shock, and additional safeguards must be observed when work is carried out on electrical equipment, particularly in view of the fact that the tool may very often be used in wet conditions.

The dimensions, tolerances and other figures in the specification are given in the British System which is to be regarded as the standard. The tools are, however, exported to all parts of the world and to assist those using the metric system a conversion table is included. The metric figures are approximate, and more accurate conversions should be based on the tables in BS 350, "*Conversion factors and tables*".

The Standard has been prepared under the authority of the Mechanical Engineering Industry Standards Committee.

A British Standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users of British Standards are responsible for their correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i to iv, pages 1 to 6 and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.

¹⁾ BS 2957, "*Fireman's axe with ash handle*".