

Specification

Indicator plates for fire hydrants and emergency water supplies

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

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- Association of Metropolitan Authorities
- British Constructional Steelwork Association
- British Fire Protection Systems Association
- Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers Association*
- Concrete Society Ltd
- Confederation of British Industry
- Department of the Environment*
- Department of the Environment and Fire Offices
- Committee Joint Fire Research Organization*
- Department of Trade
- Engineering Equipment Users' Association
- Fire Extinguishing Trades Association*
- Fire Offices Committee
- Fire Protection Association
- Greater London Council*
- Health and Safety Executive
- Home Office*
- Industrial Fire Protection Association of Great Britain
- Institute of Heating and Ventilating Engineers
- Institution of Civil Engineers
- Institution of Fire Engineers*
- Institution of Municipal Engineers
- Ministry of Defence*
- National Council of Building Material Producers
- Royal Institute of British Architects

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

- Association of Road Traffic Sign Manufacturers
- British Fire Services Association
- British Plastics Federation
- British Valve Manufacturers' Association
- National Water Council

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Foreword

This revision of BS 3251 supersedes the 1960 version and, as part of BSI's programme of metrication, is expressed in metric terms. The metric values are in SI units; for further information reference should be made to BS 3763 "The International System of units (SI)".

This revised standard, besides introducing a design of plate for displaying information in metric terms, also introduces fresh requirements for plates to indicate the direction and distance of emergency water supplies and the distance of the valve controlling a meter bypass. In addition separate requirements for plates for use on motorway roads are included.

It is not intended that existing plates which are marked in imperial units should be replaced immediately with metric plates conforming to this standard. The metric markings of the new plates are sufficiently distinctive to avoid confusion with existing plates which are marked in imperial units and therefore plates of the latter type may continue in use so long as their condition is satisfactory.

Self-adhesive hydrant indicator stickers are not covered by this standard as their form of construction and fixing is different from that for rigid plates. However, these stickers should conform to the requirements given in this standard concerning the method of displaying the necessary information, i.e. size of letters and digits and colour of the indicator.

The standard does not specify requirements for fixing the plates as these requirements will vary greatly according to circumstances. However, for the guidance of users of plates that comply with the requirements of this standard, some important considerations concerning the method of fixing the plates are given in Appendix A.

Certification. Attention is drawn to the certification facilities described on the inside back cover of this standard.

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 and ii, pages 1 to 10, an inside back cover 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.

Section 1. General

1 Scope

This British Standard specifies requirements for hydrant, emergency water supply and meter bypass indicator plates made from sheet steel, cast iron, aluminium alloy or plastics materials, together with all removable characters and spacer pieces supplied with them.

Four types of plate are specified.

- a) Class A plates: hydrant indicator plates for general use except on roads of motorway standard.
- b) Class B plates: hydrant indicator plates for use on roads of motorway standard.
- c) Class C plates: indicator plates for emergency water supplies, "EWS".
- d) Class D plates: indicator plates for meter bypass valves.

2 References

The titles of the British Standards referred to in this standard are listed on the inside back cover.

3 Definition

For the purposes of this British Standard the following definition applies.

character

a term which includes all letters, digits, arrows and other indicating marks on the front surface of the plates. A character may be flush, raised, recessed or removable

4 Marking

Indicator plates complying with all the relevant requirements of this standard shall be marked with the BS number, i.e. BS 3251.

Section 2. Design

5 Dimensions

5.1 Indicator plates shall conform to the dimensions shown in the figures as follows.

Class A plates to Figure 1

Class B plates to Figure 2

Class C plates to Figure 5

Class D plates to Figure 6

5.2 Where, however, it is desired to indicate that double hydrants exist, double hydrant indicator plates shall be used conforming to the dimensions shown in the figures as follows.

Class A plates to Figure 3

Class B plates to Figure 4

5.3 In all cases where removable digits or spacer pieces are required these shall conform to the dimensions shown in Figure 7.

5.4 When plates are required to fit both 165 mm and 150 mm vertical fixing centres the slots shown in Figure 1 to Figure 6 shall be suitably elongated to accommodate 150 mm centres.

5.5 The tolerances for all the dimensions shall be ± 0.5 mm, except that for the apertures for removable characters they shall be $+0.5$, -0 mm and for the removable characters they shall be $+0$, -0.5 mm.

6 Character sizes

6.1 For class A plates characters shall conform to the sizes shown in Figure 1, Figure 3 and Figure 7.

6.2 For class B plates the characters shall conform to the sizes shown in Figure 2, Figure 4 and Figure 7 except that the lettering in the part of the plate below the "H" or "HD" shall be as large as can conveniently be fitted into the space available while ensuring that all essential information is included. Preferably the letters of the principal words should be 40 mm high.

6.3 For class C plates the lettering should preferably conform to the sizes indicated in Figure 5 but may be varied to suit the circumstances. The direction of the arrow shall be as clearly shown and the arrow itself be as large as the available space permits.

6.4 For class D plates the lettering shall conform to the size shown in Figure 6.

7 Presentation of information

7.1 Class A and class B plates shall carry, on the upper part of the plate, two or three digits giving the nominal internal diameter of the water main in millimetres, and, on the lower part of the plate, one or two digits indicating the distance of the hydrant from the plate to the nearest metre.

7.2 Class B plates shall carry an address as shown in the example illustrated in Figure 2. If appropriate, an arrow may be added or substituted which shall be arranged to give the closest possible indication of the direction in which the hydrant lies.

7.3 Class C plates shall carry an address and an indicating arrow as shown in the example illustrated in Figure 5. The approximate distance of the emergency water supply shall be shown in metres. The relative position of the arrow, the digits indicating distance and the extent of definition of the local feature may be varied to suit the conditions at the site. In particular, the arrow shall be arranged to give the closest possible indication of the direction in which the water supplies lie.