

Fire safety signs, notices and graphic symbols —

Part 2: Specification for self-luminous fire safety signs

Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by the Fire Standards Committee (FSM/-) to Technical Committee FSM/11, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- Association of British Theatre Technicians
- Association of Manufacturers Allied to the Electrical and Electronic Industry (BEAMA Ltd.)
- British Bingo Association
- British Entertainment and Dancing Association
- British Sign Association
- Chartered Institution of Building Services' Engineers
- Chartered Insurance Institute
- Chemical Industries' Association
- Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers' Association
- Defence Manufacturers' Association
- Department of Health and Social Security
- Department of the Environment (Property Services Agency)
- Department of the Environment (Building Research Establishment, Fire Research Station)
- Fire Extinguishing Trades' Association
- Fire Fighting Vehicle Manufacturers' Association
- Fire Protection Association
- Guild of Architectural Ironmongers
- Health and Safety Executive
- Home Office
- Institution of Fire Engineers
- Lighting Industry Federation Ltd.
- National Radiological Protection Board
- Royal Institute of British Architects
- Society of Industrial Artists and Designers

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Fire Standards Committee, was published under the authority of the Board of BSI and comes into effect on 28 November 1986

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

This Part of BS 5499 has been prepared under the direction of the Fire Standards Committee. It constitutes a revision of BS 4218:1978, which it supersedes and which is withdrawn. The re-numbering has been carried out in order to align this Part with other Parts of BS 5499 dealing with fire and emergency safety signs. A revision of BS 2560, dealing with internally illuminated signs is also being carried out, and this will form Part 3 of BS 5499.

This Part of BS 5499 specifies requirements for self-luminous signs that are independent of any external source of energy. It has been accepted for use in buildings where it is necessary or desirable that indicating signs be illuminated, e.g. bingo halls, ballrooms and other places of public entertainment. It should be noted that no effective illuminance is emitted from this sign.

This Part of BS 5499 differs from BS 4218:1978 in that it applies solely to the construction and performance of this type of sign. The previous edition dealt with graphics requirements, specifically those for the word "EXIT". All graphics requirements are now to be included in BS 5499-1. The changes will be given in an amendment to Part 1.

This Part of BS 5499 is generally in accordance with the principles and criteria contained in the Nuclear Energy Agency document for Radiation Protection Standards for Gaseous Tritium Light Devices¹⁾.

While properly constructed signs such as those specified in this Part of BS 5499 constitute no significant hazard or risk to personal safety, it has to be recognized that if any sign containing a radioactive gaseous isotope is substantially damaged, the release of the radioactive gas from the sign could give rise to a temporary exposure of personnel, particularly in a confined space, during the period of dispersal of the gas. Moreover, if such a release occurred, part, or all of the sign would no longer be self-energized and might no longer fulfil its purpose of indication. It is accordingly desirable that all radioactive signs should be manufactured in accordance with this Part of BS 5499, which adequately provides against all personal hazard if the sign is handled with reasonable care during transit and installation. The requirements specified herein are intended to ensure that, in a sign complying with this Part of BS 5499, tritium cannot be released from the gaseous tritium light source(s) [GTLS(s)] under the most severe conditions that are likely to be encountered in the normal handling of the sign.

IMPORTANT NOTE The use and disposal of fire safety signs containing tritium is covered by Exemption Order 1985 No. 1047 (The Radioactive Substances (Gaseous Tritium Light Devices) Exemption Order 1985). Under this order, conditional exemption from registration would be given for signs that comply with this Part of BS 5499, that are securely fixed or attached to premises, or if stored, that are stored for not more than 1 month, and if certain other conditions are met. The manufacturer of the sign should furnish the purchaser with the necessary details.

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 6, 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.

¹⁾ Published by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, 1973.