

Specification for

Electric signs and high-voltage luminous-discharge- tube installations

Committees responsible for this British Standard

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

- British Sign Association
- Institution of Electrical Engineers

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Electrical Illumination Standards Policy Committee, was published under the authority of the Board of BSI and comes into effect on 28 February 1991

© BSI 07-1999

First published June 1934
Second edition February 1938
Third edition March 1955
Fourth edition April 1986
Fifth edition February 1991

The following BSI references relate to the work on this standard:
Committee reference LGL/11
Draft for comment 89/27193 DC

ISBN 0 580 18976 7

Amendments issued since publication

Amd. No.	Date	Comments

Contents

	Page
Committees responsible	Inside front cover
Foreword	iii
1 Scope	1
2 Definitions	1
3 Materials	1
4 Resistance to corrosion	2
5 Non-metallic letters or devices	2
6 Metallic letters or devices	3
7 Backing panels	3
8 Glass panels	4
9 Flat panels of plastics materials	4
10 Means of attachment of signs	5
11 Water resistance	5
12 Temperature rise of components	5
13 Switching and isolation	5
14 Access to high-voltage installations	5
15 Provision for earthing	6
16 Insulation resistance	6
17 Lamps, lampholders and auxiliaries used in low-voltage signs	6
18 Transformers	6
19 Invertors and convertors	6
20 Auxiliaries for discharge lamps	7
21 Capacitors	7
22 Flasher units	7
23 Bell-glasses	7
24 High-voltage cables and conductors	8
25 Supports for high-voltage luminous-discharge tubes	8
26 Supports for high-voltage cables and conductors	9
27 Connections for high-voltage cables	9
28 Constructional requirements for installing high-voltage cables	9
29 Radio interference suppression, harmonics and voltage fluctuations	10
Figure 1 — Typical arrangement within an internally illuminated letter	10
Figure 2 — Typical circuit incorporating a protective device in accordance with 18.2	11
Figure 3 — Plan view of an electrode housing passing through a fascia panel	11
Figure 4 — Recommended methods for termination of lead-alloy sheathed cables	12
Figure 5 — Use of a right-angled bell glass behind a metallic letter	13
Table 1 — Minimum thickness of hardwood letters or devices	3
Table 2 — Dimensions relating to metallic letters or devices formed in channel or H-section	3
Table 3 — Minimum thickness of wood or fibreboard backing panels	4
Table 4 — Minimum thickness of glass panels used in the vertical plane	4

	Page
Table 5 — Minimum thickness of glass panels used in planes other than the vertical	4
Table 6 — Minimum thickness of fixing clips	4
Table 7 — Minimum thickness of plastics panels	5
Table 8 — Distance between cable and conductor supports	9

Foreword

This revision of this British Standard has been prepared under the direction of the Electrical Illumination Standards Policy Committee and supersedes BS 559:1986 which is withdrawn. The revision introduces improved cable specifications and deals with the particular needs of their installation. It also gives greater detail on establishing likely wind pressures on signs and widens the scope of the standard to cover high-powered invertors or convertors which have become widely available.

Attention is drawn to the fact that regulation 554-3 in the fifteenth edition of the Regulations for Electrical Installations issued by the Institution of Electrical Engineers¹⁾ states “High voltage electric signs and high voltage luminous discharge tube installations shall be constructed, selected and erected in accordance with the requirements of BS 559”. Attention is also drawn to the fact that the Regulations for Electrical Installations include additional requirements concerning the connection of high-voltage discharge lighting installations to the low-voltage mains supply (e.g. switching and isolation requirements).

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 13 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⁾ Copies of the Regulations for Electrical Installations may be obtained from the Institution of Electrical Engineers, P.O.Box No 96, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2SD

