

Specification for

Design, construction and installation of signs

ICS 01.080.99; 03.080.20

NO COPYING WITHOUT BSI PERMISSION EXCEPT AS PERMITTED BY COPYRIGHT LAW

BSI
Documents



Document Sharing Hub

Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by Technical Committee CPL/34, Lamps and related equipment, to Subcommittee CPL/34/11, Electric signs, upon which the following bodies were represented:

British Sign Association
Co-opted members

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Electrotechnical Sector Board, was published under the authority of the Standards Board and comes into effect on 15 August 1998

© BSI 1998

First published June 1934
Second edition February 1938
Third edition March 1955
Fourth edition April 1986
Fifth edition February 1991
Sixth edition August 1998

The following BSI references relate to the work on this standard:
Committee reference CPL/34/11
Draft for comment 97/207153 DC

ISBN 0 580 29564 8

Amendments issued since publication

Amd. No.	Date	Text affected

Contents

	Page
Committees responsible	Inside front cover
Foreword	ii
1 Scope	1
2 References	1
3 Definitions	1
4 Service life	1
5 Sign materials	1
6 Sign construction	2
7 Electrical requirements for illuminated signs	7
8 Marking	7
Tables	
1 Minimum sheet thickness and depth of return for metallic letters formed in channel or H-section	4
2 Minimum sheet thickness and depth of return for letters of plastics materials and formed in channel or H-section	5
List of references	8

Foreword

This revision of BS 559 has been prepared by Subcommittee CPL/34/11. Together with BS EN 50107:1998, it supersedes BS 559 : 1991 which is withdrawn.

Following the completion of BS EN 50107 it was agreed that, although that standard specified the electrical requirements for the installation of signs and luminous-discharge-tube installations operating from a no-load output voltage exceeding 1000 V but not exceeding 10 000 V, additional requirements were needed for their construction and installation.

Attention is drawn to the fact that BS 7671 : 1992 includes 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 and ii, pages 1 to 8, an inside back cover and a back cover.

1 Scope

This British Standard specifies requirements for the design, construction and installation of signs for use for publicity, decorative or general purposes, at internal or external locations. It is applicable to illuminated and to non-illuminated signs and installations, fixed or portable.

This standard is not applicable to road traffic signs (specified in BS 873), safety signs (specified in BS 5378) or fire safety signs (specified in BS 5499).

2 References

2.1 Normative references

This British Standard incorporates by dated or undated reference, provisions from other publications. These normative references are made at the appropriate places in the text and the cited publications are listed on page 8. For dated references, only the edition cited applies; any subsequent amendments to or revision of the cited publication apply to this British Standard only when incorporated in the reference by amendment or revision. For dated references, the latest edition of the cited publication applies, together with any amendments.

2.2 Informative references

This British Standard refers to other publications that provide information or guidance. Editions of these publications current at the time of issue of this standard are listed on the inside back cover, but reference should be made to the latest editions.

3 Definitions

For the purposes of this British Standard the following definitions apply.

3.1 sign

A word, letter, model, emblem, border, outline, box, device, representation, announcement or direction, fixed or free standing, including a framework together, where necessary, with a means of attachment to a building or supporting structure.

3.2 illuminated sign

A sign with means of illumination, such means being either an integral part of the sign or external to the sign.

NOTE 1. External illumination may be in the form of floodlighting luminaires.

NOTE 2. Integral illumination may consist of light sources within the sign, providing back illumination of a translucent (or transparent) face carrying the sign message; or may consist of light sources fixed to the sign face and comprising an integral part of the message.

3.3 sign installation

A sign consisting of many separate parts and intended to be assembled and wired at the actual installation site.

3.4 self-contained sign

A sign, usually small, in which the housing, legend, means of illumination and wiring are supplied as a complete unit requiring merely to be connected to a mains supply.

NOTE. A self-contained sign may be portable or may be intended to be permanently fixed to its mounting surface.

3.5 portable sign

A small self-contained sign which is supplied as a complete unit and is intended to be placed in position and, if illuminated, connected to a mains supply, usually by unskilled personnel.

NOTE. A portable illuminated sign is usually supplied with an integral lead for connecting to the mains supply and this often includes a mains plug.

3.6 low voltage

A nominal voltage normally exceeding extra-low voltage but not exceeding 1000 V a.c. or 1500 V d.c. between conductors, or 600 V a.c. or 900 V d.c. between conductors and earth.

3.7 luminaire

Equipment which distributes, filters, or transforms the light from one or more tubes, and which includes any parts necessary for supporting, fixing and protecting the tubes, but not the tubes themselves, and, where necessary, circuit auxiliaries together with the means for connecting them to the supply.

3.8 backing panel

The part behind a sign or fitting which may also act as a means of support.

4 Service life

The service life of the sign shall be either:

- a) as specified by the purchaser on the order; or
- b) as agreed between the purchaser and the manufacturer; or
- c) if not specified or agreed in accordance with a) or b), 10 years.

5 Sign materials

5.1 General

Materials used in the construction of signs shall:

- a) conform to 5.2 to 5.5, as applicable;
- b) where specified in 5.2.1, be provided with a surface treatment to all faces and edges, applied after machining and fabricating processes are completed. Surface treatments shall conform to 6.13.