

Road traffic signs and internally illuminated bollards —

Part 6: Specification for retroreflective and non-retroreflective signs

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The organizations marked with an asterisk in the above list, together with the following, were directly represented on the Technical Committee entrusted with the preparation of this British Standard:

Aluminium Federation	Confederation of British Road Passenger Transport
Association of Public Lighting	Electricity Supply Industry in England and Wales
Association of Road Traffic Sign Makers	Fibre Building Board Development Organization Ltd.
British Electrical and Allied Manufacturers Association (BEAMA)	Lighting Industry Federation Ltd
British Plastics Federation	Paint Research Association
British Precast Concrete Federation Ltd.	Post Office
British Rubber Manufacturers' Association	Retroreflective Equipment Manufacturers' Association
British Sign Association	Vitreous Enamel Development Council
British Steel Industry	Coopted members
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This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Road Engineering Standards Committee, was published under the authority of the Board of BSI and comes into effect on 31 January 1983

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

This Part of this British Standard has been prepared under the direction of the Road Engineering Standards Committee. BS 873 was first published in 1939 in response to a request from the Association of Road Traffic Sign Makers, and was revised in 1959 and 1970. As a result of subsequent experience and the advent of new materials and methods of construction, it is being further revised to bring it up-to-date. This process will continue in future revisions.

The revised standard is being published in the following separate Parts, relating to the various aspects of road traffic signs and internally illuminated bollards which are considered to be suitable for standardization.

- *Part 1: Methods of test;*
- *Part 2: Specification for miscellaneous traffic signs;*
- *Part 3: Specification for internally illuminated bollards;*
- *Part 4: Specification for road studs;*
- *Part 5: Specification for internally illuminated signs and external lighting luminaires;*
- *Part 6: Specification for retroreflective and non-retroreflective signs;*
- *Part 7: Specification for posts and fittings.*

NOTE BS 873-1 gives further details of the various Parts.

The committee reconsidered the need for requirements for resistance to abrasion and concluded that, while perhaps desirable, it was not practicable to establish suitable conditions of test bearing in mind the wide variety of finishes available within the specification. Experience had indicated there was no need for signs of greater strength and no fundamental changes were thought necessary as regards thickness of sheet sign plate materials.

Some of the tests specified in this standard are such as to necessitate a programme of sampling. Such a procedure should be agreed between the purchaser and manufacturer at the time of ordering. Attention is drawn to BS 2635, BS 6000, BS 6001 and BS 6002.

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. In particular, attention is drawn to the following:

The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions

The Traffic Signs (Speed Limits) Regulations and General Directions

The Pedestrian Crossing Regulations

Information on the relationship between these Regulations and BS 873 is given in appendix A of BS 873-1:1983.

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.

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 Scope

This Part of BS 873 specifies requirements for the construction, preparation and finish of sign plates, frames and fittings. It also specifies the photometric, colorimetric and performance requirements of retroreflective and non-retroreflective sign face materials for use in the manufacture of permanent and temporary road traffic signs. The various components and materials to be used in the construction of the signs are specified.

While this standard specifies requirements for resistance to twisting of the mounting arrangements between the sign and its support, it does not specify the requirements for such supports. When these take the form of posts, the requirements of BS 873-7 apply.

The criteria embodied in this standard will not necessarily ensure adequate performance or suitability of the material for purposes of devices other than road traffic signs, delineators and street furniture.

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

2 Definitions

For the purposes of this Part of BS 873 the definitions in BS 873-1 apply.

3 Marking and information

3.1 Complete signs

3.1.1 Marking. Finished sign plates (with sign face attached) shall be clearly and durably marked, on the back, with the following information:

- a) the number of this British Standard, i.e. BS 873-6¹⁾;
- b) the name, trade mark or other means of identification of the manufacturer or vendor;
- c) the classification of any retroreflective material used in the manufacture of the sign face (see 4.3.2);
- d) the month and year of assembly.

These markings shall be in characters legible at a normal reading distance such that the total area of the marking does not exceed 30 cm² and shall be sufficiently durable to last the expected life of the sign plate to which it is applied.

3.1.2 Information. The manufacturer or vendor shall make available the following information:

- a) instructions on the assembly and erection of the sign;
- b) details of any limitations in location or usage;
- c) instructions on the operation and maintenance of the sign.

3.2 Components of signs

3.2.1 Marking. Where the component complies with a British Standard the marking shall be that specified in that standard.

3.2.2 Information. The manufacturer or vendor shall make available the following information:

- a) where the component is not covered by and/or does not comply with a British Standard, a detailed technical specification of the component;
- b) instructions on the application of the component;
- c) details of any limitations in location or usage, including any potential incompatibility with other materials;
- d) instructions on the operation and maintenance of the component.

4 Materials

4.1 General. Materials and finishes shall be compatible so as to avoid failure or deterioration due to electrolytic action or by differential thermal expansion.

NOTE 1 See BS 5493 and PD 6484 for further information. Sign plates and frames and fittings shall be finished as specified in clause 5.

NOTE 2 Certain limitations with regard to the selection of materials may apply as a result of the choice of surface finish.

4.2 Sign plates

4.2.1 General. Sign plates shall be constructed from one or more of the following materials:

- a) sheet steel or strip of minimum thickness 1.25 mm and complying with BS 1449, BS 2989 or BS 3830;
- b) sheet aluminium and sheet aluminium alloy complying with grades SIC-H4, HS30-TF, NS3-H6 or NS4-H6 of BS 1470 of minimum thickness 3.0 mm for unstiffened signs and 2.0 mm for stiffened signs;

¹⁾ Marking BS 873-6 on or in relation to a product is a claim by the manufacturer that the product has been manufactured to the requirements of the standard. The accuracy of such a claim is therefore solely the manufacturer's responsibility. Enquiries as to the availability of third party certification to support such claims should be addressed to the Director, Quality Assurance Division, British Standards Institution, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 4SQ for certification marks administered by BSI or to the appropriate authority for other certification marks.