

AUGUST 2001 NEWS

LAUNCH OF INTERNATIONAL VERSION OF SECURITY STANDARD

BS7799 – Code of Practice for information security management is now launched as an international standard. Dual numbered as BS ISO/IEC 17799:2000 (BS 7799-1:2000) it can now be used throughout the world. There is also a Risk Assessment Software Tool for use with the standard. It allows the effective application of both baseline protection and detailed risk assessment methods to determine the selection of appropriate controls and is available from BSI.

NEW CODE OF PRACTICE FOR IT APPLICATIONS

A new standard is being developed – BS7988, it is directed at organisations delivering tests and assessments of examinations by computer, both for diagnostic and final exam purposes. A Consultancy briefing has been prepared and a Draft for Public Comment is planned to be available by this autumn, the standard is due for publication in April 2002.

NEW EDITION OF STANDARD BS7255 – CODE OF SAFE WORKING ON LIFTS

The original standard was launched in 1989 and the new version takes into account the change in attitudes towards safety and reflects the many important changes in regulations that have occurred. The new code looks at the methodology of risk assessment – hazard identification, risk analysis, risk reduction and control documentation. A major change is the division of safety management between the owner's responsibilities and the industry's responsibilities that now can be clearly differentiated. Training is still very important and is reinforced by the need for the work to be carried out using safe procedures and authorised people.

The new code covers lifts of any age and it is hoped that when old lifts are being modernised the new recommendations are followed.

The document will help in meeting the requirements of:-

Lift Regulations: 1997

BS EN 81-1 and BS EN 81-2: 1998

LOLER Regulations: 1998

PUWER Regulations: 1998

CDM: 1994

Personal Protection Equipment Regulations: 1992

Workplace Regulations: 1992

Further information on BS7255:2001 is available from BSI Customer Services.

ISO CONFERENCE

The General Assembly of the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) is meeting this year in Sydney, Australia in September. 138 countries will attend it and it will be the first time that the Assembly has met in the southern hemisphere. The topics will include climate change and risk management.

NEW STANDARDS FOR SOIL IMPROVERS AND GROWING MEDIA

The CEN/TC 233 Soil Improvers and growing media committee have developed a set of European Standards and reports that cover new labelling and classification of products, rules on safety for consumers and manufacturers, environmental impacts and sampling and quantity measurements. These standards will replace the existing British Standards

and will affect all producers of soil improvers and growing media, as well as Trading standards officers with responsibility for quantity declaration, labelling and packaging. Further information is available from BSI.

CEN CONFERENCE

The European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) is holding a major conference in Brussels in December on issues surrounding construction products for the Single Market. Its theme is "Expectations and Reality" and it hopes to encourage debate on the issues surrounding the establishment of the single European market in construction products. It is expected that the conference will be attended by a wide range of interested parties including manufacturers, distributors, designers, architects, notified Bodies, regulators, non-governmental organisations and consumer groups. More information on the conference agenda is available from the CEN website at www.cenorm.be/news/conferences/construction.htm

ISO/TC 217 COSMETICS

The international trade in cosmetics is rapidly increasing and developed countries are exporting their products more and more. One of the countries that have had a historical reputation of excellence in cosmetics is Persia (Iran). However, there is a variety of standards in existence, therefore, a requirement of an internationally recognised standard has become a necessity to allow countries to join the global market.

Products are traded on the basis of technical specification and proof of compliance with certain specifications and safety regulations are becoming more and more strict. Manufacturers have to be able to prove that their products meet these requirements in order for them to be internationally accepted. In addition, the reliability of test data is a critical factor when making decisions on purchases and usage. International demand for test data and other technical information is also increasing. Today, in most countries, national standards have given way to international standards. Moreover, consumers have more confidence in products that conform to international standards. The ultimate goal is for one standard, one test and one mark:

One standard; a single series of internationally harmonised standards.

One test; results from a single accredited test laboratory accepted internationally.

One mark; a single mark, recognised internationally by regulatory authorities.

The purpose of establishing ISO/TC 217 was to develop international standards for cosmetics, with a view to establishing harmonised technical rules and increasing benefits, product quality, reducing costs, improving health, safety, environmental protection and finally having access to the global market. For these reasons and the need for a technical committee concerning cosmetics, the Institute of Standards and Industrial Research of Iran (ISIRI) proposed to establish a new technical committee for cosmetics within ISO. ISO's Technical Management Board (TMB) have sent a proposal to all ISO members and having received 33 votes in favour of the project, the ISO TMB decided to set up a new technical committee, ISO/TC 217, Cosmetics, allocating the secretariat to ISIR, ISO member for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

BS 7671:2001 REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS

This is the full revision of the 16th Edition of the IEE Wiring Regulations and has been updated to reflect new technology and new and revised European Standards. In particular it now includes a section dealing with protection against overvoltages from

atmospheric origin and due to switching and a section on precautions where particular risks or dangers of fire exist.

NEW ISO STANDARDS COMPENDIUM

The new edition of the compendium of environmental management standard (ISO 14000) contains 20 published documents including the ISO14000 family developed by ISO Technical Committee ISO/TC 207, Environmental management. In addition to all the published International Standards and Technical Reports, it also includes draft standards. Additions to this edition of the compendium include ISO14031 and ISO14302, on environmental performance evaluation. Also, ISO14041, ISO14042, ISO14043:2000 and ISO/TR14049, on life cycle assessment, which is a technique for assessing the environmental aspects and potential impacts associated with a product. ISO offers organisations a wide ranging portfolio of standardised sampling, testing and analytical methods for monitoring specific aspects of the environment such as; air quality, water and soil, harmful emissions, noise, vibration levels, radiation etc. These standards provide businesses and government valid data obtained scientifically. ISO also offers a framework for organisations of all types to manage the impact of their activities on the environment and to continually improve their environmental performance. The ISO14000 family of standards is the responsibility of ISO/TC207, which was established in 1993. For more information on the new ISO Standards Compendium, ISO14000 Environmental management, please visit ISO Web site; www.iso.ch

DO SUNGLASSES PROTECT YOUR EYES

Sunglasses should always be worn on a sunny day to protect our eyes from the sun's harmful UV rays. Long term exposure to the sun's harmful rays can lead to a condition known as Photokeratitis, which is like sunburn and is very uncomfortable. Exposure to the sun's UV radiation can also speed up ageing and possibly lead to cataracts. So how is it possible to know whether the sunglasses we want to buy will actually do their most important job of all and protect our eyes? The Eyecare Information Service and the British Standard Institution have produced a joint information list that includes the top tips for buying the best sunglasses. These tips include advice such as;

- Buy sunglasses which carry the "CE" Mark and British Standard BS EN 1836:1997, which ensures the glasses offer a safe level of UV protection.
- Unless the glasses carry the British Standard BS EN 1836:1997, do not confuse the shade of the lens with the ability to filter UV rays, as dark sunglasses may still allow UV rays to enter the eyes.
- Sunglasses used for driving should show a filter category of less than 4 to be safe for driving. Sunglasses are marked with a filter category number from 0-4, where 4 is the darkest.
- Ideally sunglasses will also absorb high energy visible radiation, known as blue light. It is also advised that no more than 95% of blue light be filtered to avoid colour distortion.
- Sunglasses should be protected from getting scratched, as it can scatter the sun's light and cause glare. So keep your sunglasses in a case and clean them with mild detergent and water.

NOISE

A new European Directive, the "Noise Emission in the Environment by Equipment for Use Outdoors Directive" will be released on July 3 and in January 2002 it will become

mandatory. The Directive covers 57 categories of equipment including lawn mowers, snow blowers as well as construction gear. The intention is to control and monitor this type of equipment so that “noise nuisance” is reduced and it should also benefit trade by removing problems due to differing noise requirements across European countries.

Manufacturers will need to display a CE “noise marking” label on any of their products that fall into the 57 categories. In the case of some of the louder products, typically those used in construction, there are noise limits imposed and there is a mandatory requirement to use a notified body to provide the accreditation.

Further information about CE Marking can be found from, the BSi CE Marking homepage.

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