



BSGA NEWS

Setting a new Standard



A new, revised and updated edition of BS559, the British Standard for Signage, has just been published by the British Standards Institution (BSI) thanks to the efforts of the BSGA acting in its role as the UK industry's principal trade association.

This is the seventh edition of the Standard, which was first introduced in 1934 and last updated in 1998 to coincide with the introduction of EN 50107, the European standard for the electrical safety of high voltage signs.

In the years since then there have been a number of significant developments in signmaking technology and it was for this reason that the BSGA applied to the BSI for a review of the Standard.

The review process started in early 2008 and, over a period of months, members of the BSGA's Technical Committee, together with other industry representatives, worked with the BSI to revise and update the content of the Standard. Final approval of the new edition was given in August 2009, following a period of public consultation and peer review over the summer.

Several parts of the Standard have been expanded to include more detailed descriptions and specifications. In addition new sections covering the use of LEDs, wind load calculations and sign foundation construction have been

added. There is also a new Annex covering the use and application of vinyl sheet material.

In a number of sections notes have been added. These include guidance on the minimisation of stray light or 'light pollution', together with, in the final section, comments on the recycling and recovery of materials.

BS559 is now more detailed than earlier versions and, will be a valuable aid to signmakers, designers, specifiers and others in the industry.

The BSGA's Technical Committee is currently working to update the Association's Technical Guideline K4.1: 'A guide to British Standard BS559'. When published this will be available for Members to download from the BSGA web site www.bsga.co.uk

Copies of the Standard BS559: 2009 'Specification for the design and production of signs for publicity, decorative and general purposes', can be purchased from the BSI Shop on their web site www.bsigroup.com/shop



Sign & Digital UK 2010



Preparations are well underway for Sign & Digital UK 2010 and event organisers Faversham House Group tell us that they are planning a host of new features for the show, which takes place at the NEC, Birmingham from April 13 - 15.

They have launched a new easy to use web site www.signanddigitaluk.com where you can get catch up on all the latest information including who will be exhibiting at the show. And, for even more up to the minute news, you can follow Sign & Digital UK on Twitter – so get tweeting!

Stand space as always is at a premium, with many major names having already signed up, so to be sure of getting the spot you want for

April, contact Alex Howard on 0208 651 7155 or at alex.howard@fav-house.com or alternatively Alex Dann on 0208 651 7091 or at alex.dann@fav-house.com.



'Sign-up Safely' Event May Get Countrywide Roll-Out



Such was the success of the Sign Up Safely event held in June, that consideration is being given a countrywide roll out of the event in 2010.

More than 100 signmakers attended the first Sign Up Safely seminar in Barnsley at the end of June. The main focus of the event, organised in conjunction with the Sheffield office of the HSE, was working at heights, but presentations on manual handling, risk assessments and COSHH regulations were also included.

Many of those attending were BSGA members and thanks to them for their support (and particularly to Allen Signs for sporting the BSGA

Shield on their company vehicle). Thanks also to the presenters from ASLEC, BTAL, Butterfield Signs, IPAF, the Ladder Association, Nationwide Skylift, Signs Express Ltd and the Youngman Group for their contributions on the day.

This was essentially a 'local' event but, based on the positive feedback from those attending, it may be rolled out around the country next year. We'll keep you posted.



Development Plan Monitoring Victory in Chelsea

As a result of representations made by the BSGA to Kensington & Chelsea RBC during the public consultation on its Core Planning Strategy document, the Council has modified objectionable elements of its policy.

In the draft version, under the 'Streetscape' section, the Council sought, amongst other things, to resist free-standing adverts on streets and forecourts or attached to street furniture. No justification was given for this and, as a result of our objections these requirements have now been removed from the final draft of the policy.

The Association view this is a vitally important area of activity and will continue to register our objections to councils' local development plans where we believe they are against the interests of our industry.

Contractors set new Supervisor Training Standard

The 29 member companies of the UK Contractors Group (UKCG) – formerly the Major Contractors Group – have announced that they will be introducing a Supervisors' Training Standard, with effect from January 1, 2010.

As a result the BSGA contacted UKCG and received guidance regarding sign installers and the training requirements for the standard. Their response was detailed to BSGA Members at the beginning of October and can now be accessed via the SignPost forum on our web site.

The posting includes links to the UKCG and Construction Skills web sites where information on the Training Standard and the Construction Skills Site Supervisors' Safety Training Scheme (SSSTS) can be found.

If you work regularly on construction sites managed or controlled by members of the UKCG, we strongly recommend you look into the requirements of the scheme.

Qualifications

Key Role for BSGA In Setting Future Occupational Standards

As reported in an earlier issue the structure of vocational qualifications for the sign industry in England, Wales and Northern Ireland is undergoing a major overhaul. At the heart of this reform is the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF), which is intended to make the system simpler to understand and use, thus making it more relevant to both employers and learners.

The first stage in the process is an in-depth review of the National Occupational Standards for the sign industry, which is being coordinated by Cogent, the Sector Skills Council with responsibility for the sign industry, with input from the BSGA, colleges and other trade bodies.

The Sector Skills Council for Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals,
Nuclear, Oil & Gas, Petroleum & Polymers

cogent



When the new National Occupational Standards (NOS) have been agreed the process of establishing key job roles for the sign industry will begin. The ultimate aim is to build a set of qualifications, based on the modules within the QCF, which match the future training and skills needs of our industry.

The NOS review and the development of Gold Standard job roles were major topics at this year's

BSGA NVQ Signmaking Conference, which took place in Peterborough in June and this debate provided an excellent starting point for the review.

For more information on QCF, or to find out about the Cogent Gold Standard job roles for the sign industry, use the links on the Education page of the BSGA web site www.bsga.co.uk

Welcome to Our New Members

As always it is a great pleasure to welcome new members to the BSGA. In this issue we are pleased to include details of companies that have joined the Association since the last newsletter was published.

Heckford Exhibitions

6 St Marks Place East, Ashton, Preston PR1 8TN
Tel: 01772 884 444
Fax: 01772 885 777
e-mail: sales@heckford-exhibitions.co.uk
Web: www.heckford-exhibitions.co.uk

Signage Specialist Ltd.

Unit 39, Dunes Way,
Liverpool, Merseyside L5 9RJ
Tel: 0151 207 4581
Fax: 0151 298 2387
e-mail: hello@signage-specialist.co.uk
Web: www.signage-specialist.co.uk

Subcon Design Ltd.

Croft Business Park Kirk Deighton, Wetherby,
West Yorkshire LS22 5HG
Tel: 01937 588 693
e-mail: david.dyke@subcon-design.com
Web: www.subcon-design.com

Amber Valley Signs Ltd.

The 5th Wheel, Church Street, Belper
Derbyshire DE56 0LU
Tel: 01773 609 050
e-mail: info@ambersigns.co.uk
Web: www.ambersigns.co.uk

Douglas Signs & Design UK Ltd.

Unit 2, Chertsey Business Centre
Gogmore Lane,
Chertsey KT16 9AP
Tel: 01932 564 588
Fax: 01932 564 146
e-mail: jonathan@douglassg.co.uk
Web: www.douglas-signsuk.co.uk

M G Signs Ltd.

Pondwood Close
Moulton Park,
Northampton NN3 6RT
Tel: 01604 493 226
Fax: 01604 790 288
e-mail: sales@mgsigns.com
Web: www.mgsigns.com

Neu Grafik

Unit 16, Ripplside Commercial Estate
Ripple Road
Barking
Essex IG11 0RJ
Tel: 020 8595 1010
Fax: 020 8595 2255
e-mail: info@neugrafik.co.uk
Web: www.neugrafik.co.uk

Correction and Apology

In the last issue, the contact details for Graphic Image Solutions were incorrect – my apologies to Adam Bourn for the cock-up. The correct details are:

 **graphicimage
solutionsltd**

Graphic Image Solutions Ltd
Courtyard House, West End Road
High Wycombe, Bucks HP11 2QB
Tel: 01494 492674
e-mail: adam@graphicis.co.uk
Web: www.graphicis.co.uk



Web Update

New Features and Links

The BSGA web site, now firmly established as the portal for the UK sign industry, has several new features which will increase traffic to the site still further.

First of these are the links to the government tender web sites supply2gov and access2gov. By using these links Members can register to receive notification of public sector contracts and tender for the work. The reciprocal links also provide end users with easy access to signmakers via the Signmaker Search facility on the BSGA web site - yet another reason to make sure your company profile is up-to-date.

Members can also access a wealth of other information on the website, including a range

of discount offers, by using the links in the exclusive Member's Area. The most recent of these is the offer from Generation Training which gives BSGA members a 15% discount on standard rates for a wide range of training courses

The facilities on the site will be further enhanced in the New Year with the expansion of the Marketing Matters section and the addition of a Sign Buyers Guide, targeted at end users. We also plan to add a comprehensive supplier listing and a free on-line health and safety audit questionnaire for signmakers.

In combination with the 'notice board' feature, which is already drawing visitors to the site, we believe these new additions will increase the utility of the site and improve traffic flows still further - making the site the place for signmakers to be seen!



supply2.gov.uk
supplier route to government

Generation
training services



Congratulations!

There's been a lot going on over the last few months but perhaps the most important event took place on Saturday October 17, when Sue and fiancé Paul Hewick tied the knot.

After the service at St. Mary's Church, Doddington the newly weds were joined by family and friends for the wedding breakfast at the Oliver Cromwell Hotel. Congratulations to Sue and Paul and, as the saying goes, may all your troubles be little ones!

