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Understanding the rules for civil defence contracts in the UAE

Information for exporters

Introduction

In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), civil defence departments are responsible for public safety. Federal Law No. 23, introduced in the UAE in 2006, describes their role as being responsible for: "the protection of lives, properties and sources of national wealth during peace and war times and crisis and emergency situations".

The word 'peace' here is key: the responsibility of UAE Civil Defence is to protect civilians at all times and in their daily lives. It follows that there are strict UAE Civil Defence rules to prevent products that could endanger life entering the UAE market and supply chain.

This document provides an overview of these rules and we show how BSI experts can work with you throughout the conformity process.

About the UAE Civil Defence rules

What do the rules cover?

The rules are implemented under the UAE Fire and Life Safety Code of Practice and include specifications for the design of both buildings and products. The Code was updated in 2017 after a series of fires in Dubai. Among the product categories covered are:

- Fire suppression
- Emergency lighting
- Fire detection
- Gas products

BSI has been accredited for some time and have recently extended our scope to include gas.

Geographically, the scope of the rules is broader than the seven Emirates states. Where the UAE leads in terms of assessing product quality and performance, neighbouring states — such as Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia — often follow. A certificate of conformity with UAE Civil Defence rules, then, strengthens the position of exporters to the Middle East in general.

About the conformity process

The route to certification involves four basic steps:

1. Application to an accredited testing and certification body such as BSI
2. Factory inspection
3. Type testing
4. Final inspection followed by certification, once all necessary requirements have been met

As with all type five certification schemes, conformity is an ongoing process, with steps two and three regularly repeated to ensure standards are being maintained.

If you make any changes to your product design or to your production processes you will need to inform your certification body as this will require further tests to be carried out.

Get started with BSI:

- Check our listing on the Civil Defence website and make sure we test and certify your product(s)
- Fill in an enquiry form on our website.

UAE Civil Defence and BSI Kitemark™ certification

We work closely with the UAE Civil Defence and they perform regular audits of our gas product testing facilities in the UK to ensure we meet their requirements.

BSI Kitemark certification is now widely specified for civil defence contracts throughout the Middle East as certification is of a similar level to the Emirates Quality Mark (EQM).

We offer BSI Kitemark certification for:

- fire detection and suppression products
- emergency lighting, emergency control gear and lighting systems
- gas products such as gas hoses and connectors.

Certificates of Conformity (C of C's) are issued by BSI in conjunction with Kitemark certification.

We are able to accept test results from other accredited laboratories. In these cases our experts would review the test report and the rules of the Dubai Civil Defence approved Certification Bodies list would apply.

Five reasons to choose BSI for product testing and certification

1 BSI Kitemark certification is a type five certification scheme similar to ENEC and EQM

2 We have offices in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, and a customer 'happiness centre' in Oud Metha to support manufacturers

3 We have good relationships with UAE Civil Defence departments

4 We work with regulators and trade associations in multiple markets to understand the challenges faced by businesses today

5 We are the world's first standards organization, we have an unbeatable reputation for quality and safety

What happens next?

To find out more about UAE Civil Defence requirements and how we can help:

Call: +44 (0)345 0765 606
Email: product.certification@bsigroup.com
Visit: bsigroup.com/appliances

Our Sales and Certification team will then work with you to review any existing certificate(s) and understand your requirements.

Why BSI?

For over a century BSI has championed what good looks like and driven best practice in organizations around the world. As one of the founding members of ISO, we help make sure international standards developed address today and tomorrow's business and social needs, while delivering real benefits to an organization and all its stakeholders.

We work closely with leading manufacturers to ensure their products meet the latest Regulations to gain market access. We focus on delivering a testing and certification partnership underpinned by quality, safety, reliability and accuracy aligned to

your product development requirements. That's why we're best placed to help you understand standards and to meet the requirements.

From shaping collective best practice with our knowledge solutions to product testing, certification, and environmental health and safety professional services, are we are committed to innovating and collaborating with our clients to build a safer more resilient tomorrow – one that protects buildings, assets, the environment and most importantly people.

By Royal Charter

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