

# FACT SHEET

## Visual and voice alarms – Kitemark® leads the way...

BSI has launched a Kitemark scheme for Visual Alarm Devices, products that are manufactured in accordance with EN 54-23:2010. The new scheme adds to the already impressive Kitemark fire portfolio for detection and suppression product certification and completes BSI's one-stop-shop for alarm manufacturers seeking testing and certification. Furthermore, it offers specifiers and procurement teams another third-party certified, safety critical product for use in their projects or within their own organisations.



Commercial and public buildings are required to meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) which puts the responsibility with the service provider or employer to ensure that reasonable adjustments are made to accommodate disabled people. This can include the use of visual alarm devices to ensure that hearing impaired people have an equal chance of being alerted to fire risk as other occupants of a building.

Previously, these alarms were only used to back up the traditional audible alarm systems but now, in buildings where there are hearing impaired occupants, a visual alarm could be considered as important as audible versions – dependent on a number of factors and a risk assessment.

Until recently there was no European standard applicable for visual alarms but in May 2010, EN 54-23:2010 was published which defines the requirements, test methods and performance of these devices. Industry has welcomed the new standard which will make sure that alarm signals throughout a building are as consistent and effective as possible.

Now, with Kitemark certification applied to these products, manufacturers can prove that their products meet the requirements of the new standard, specifiers and procurement teams can again rely on the integrity of Kitemark to demonstrate quality and fitness for purpose and end-users can feel their safety and well-being is assured.

Kitemark is leading the way by offering the first certification scheme for these products. This will allow manufacturers to get ahead of their competitors by applying for the only scheme that will give them independent, third-party certification.

### In addition...

BSI has launched a Kitemark scheme for loudspeakers (in a voice alarm system) manufactured in accordance with EN 54-24:2008. This new scheme complements the Kitemark scheme for EN 54-16:2008 for Voice Alarm Control and Indicating Equipment (VACIE) which is already available from BSI.

As a vital component of a voice alarm system, loudspeakers provide intelligible warnings that transmit messages to people in a building where an emergency situation is occurring. By giving clear audible instructions occupants can be safely managed or evacuated and help to reduce evacuation time.

### Why BSI?

BSI don't just certify to Kitemark and CE marking compliance. Through our facilities manufacturers can work on pre-assessment and development of their products, which can help to establish the current performance levels and further develop them to a point of compliance with the appropriate standard before embarking on a full type approval programme.

### What does Kitemark® mean to manufacturers?

There is no better mark of quality than Kitemark. **88%\*** of UK adults trust Kitemark products as well as believing that they come from a reputable company.

Kitemark licence holders and their customers have a clear advantage with safe and reliable products which can help:

- **Gain procurement preference** by tendering for public sector projects. Many procurement teams and insurance companies prefer to specify Kitemark or equivalent products.
- **Deliver quality, value for money & performance**
- **Improve business performance**
- **Enhance reputation** with Kitemark association
- **Stand out from the competition**

### For further information on either of these Kitemark Schemes contact:

**Call: 08450 765606 Email: [Kitemark@bsigroup.com](mailto:Kitemark@bsigroup.com)  
Visit: [www.bsifiresafety.com](http://www.bsifiresafety.com)**

