



PAS 7050: 2022 – Bringing safe products to the market

What is it?

PAS 7050 is a key part of the UK's consumer protection toolkit, working in tandem with legislation and other product safety standards to help ensure that only safe products reach consumers. Sponsored by the [Office for Product Safety and Standards](#) (OPSS), PAS 7050 complements [PAS 7100: 2022 – Product recall and other corrective actions](#), which focuses on the steps to take should an unsafe product reached the market.

Published: 2022

Who should use it

PAS 7050, which is [free to download](#), offers recommendations, guidance, and examples of good practice for all businesses involved in the design, development, production and distribution of products. It also supports regulators in delivery of their legal duties relating to product safety.

How will it benefit consumers?

Developed in collaboration with industry, regulators and consumer groups, the PAS 7050 code of practice supports businesses to effectively manage product safety and embed a commitment to safe products in their culture. Consumers buying from businesses that follow this PAS can feel confident that best practice processes have been followed and that product safety is a top priority.

Why should responsible organizations use this standard?

The standard gives businesses clear, practical and detailed guidance to support them to them develop a product safety management plan, comply with their legal responsibilities and employ best practice whatever the nature of their business and products. Benefits include:

- The practical recommendations will help businesses to understand what's required to make their products safe, and react quickly if safety issues are raised. Smaller companies, in particular, may benefit from access to clear guidance without the need for costly legal advice.
- Fewer customer complaints, and an increase in customer trust.
- A reduction in the need for recalls and other corrective action will in turn reduce business costs. Following the standard may also make it easier for businesses to recall specific batches of a product, rather than all of them.
- A business's reputation is less likely to be damaged by being associated with an unsafe product.
- By following guidance on clear product traceability, businesses will reduce the risk of imported products being held at the UK border.

The PAS will also enable regulators responsible for supporting good business practice to give organizations consistent advice on how to follow safety legislation.

'Consumers often assume that someone's checking up on manufacturers and importers and that traders are looking out for their best interests, but this isn't always the case. This standard will protect consumers even if they don't know they need to protect themselves.'

Emma Hope, CPIN Rep on PAS 7050



Why is this standard important for consumers?

Product safety is not always front of mind for consumers at the point of purchase. They (understandably) assume that all products that reach the market have been through robust safety-assurance processes, and may be unaware of potential risks. These risks can be exacerbated by recent developments in how products are made available to consumers, including:

- Many businesses import products from overseas for sale on the UK market. The countries of origin may not always manufacture products with equivalent safety measures to the UK.
- Products are increasingly sold through online marketplaces, which may have inadequate processes in place to monitor the safety of products sold via their platforms.
- The nature of online marketplaces has widened the definition of retailer. Online marketplaces allow individuals to set up shop from home, designing and selling handcrafted products in a way that may not appropriately take safety into account.




Best practice guidance is needed to help all businesses ensure products are safe.

Existing consumer protection in the UK includes legislation, enforced by Trading Standards; specifically, the Consumer Protection Act 1987, General Product Safety Regulations 2005, Consumer Rights Act 2015 and Regulation (EC) no 765/2008. There is also a range of standards covering specific product types. PAS 7050 supports and complements existing consumer protection by:

- creating a consistent approach to bringing safe products to market, regardless of product type
- giving guidance that goes beyond legal obligations to help businesses employ best practice
- taking a holistic approach to safety that can apply to any product, including new innovations.

How does the standard address key consumer priorities?

The primary aim of PAS 7050 is to minimize the risk of consumers buying and using unsafe products. Its goals are in line with a number of CPIN's consumer principles, including:

-  **Access** – regardless of how and where consumers shop, they will have an improved chance of accessing products that are safe.
-  **Safety** – the code of practice, which also applies to second-hand goods, recommends that businesses monitor and have processes in place to ensure product safety at all stages (including design, supply of parts, manufacture, distribution, and performance post-sale). Businesses that follow these recommendations will reduce the risk of consumers buying unsafe products, and of subsequent product recalls.
-  **Redress** – together with PAS 7100, this standard will help to ensure that businesses have a clear process in place for what action to take if a product is identified as unsafe. This will help consumers seek redress if they have bought or used an unsafe product.



How to get a copy of the standard

PAS 7050 is available to download free of charge from shop.bsigroup.com