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A new standard, a new BSI Kitemark™ . . .

A new milestone for the flood-protection industry



Introduction

The British Standard BS 851188 and the BSI Kitemark for Flood Resistance take flood protection to the next level. They're good news for the public, for construction companies, for insurers, for local authorities — and for the manufacturers of flood-resistant products and systems

The floods that have devastated the UK and mainland Europe recently have been a stark reminder of the impact of climate change: rainfall is increasing, sea levels rising. They've also underlined the importance of flood-resistant products and systems to communities and local and national economies. Increasingly, flood resistance is being associated with public safety and wellbeing and financial security.

But how can builders, insurers, local authorities, governments and members of the public be sure that flood-resistant products will do the job they're meant to do and minimise the human and economic costs of flooding?

The new British Standard BS 851188 is part of the answer. Launched in October 2019, it takes standards in the UK flood protection business to the next level, creating a stronger foundation for business growth and industry innovation.

Certification to the standard will help you meet the increasing demand for products that effectively resist flood water.

About BS 851188

BS 851188 replaces PAS 1188, the previous publicly-available specification for manufacturers of flood-protection products for commercial and residential buildings. Facilitated by BSI, sponsored by The Environment Agency, and developed in collaboration with industry stakeholders, PAS 1188 set a benchmark for manufacturers of flood-protection products as the risks of flooding in the UK grew.

Like its predecessor, the new British Standard covers:

- Products incorporating building aperture products, building skirts and wall sealant systems
- Perimeter barrier systems incorporating temporary and demountable products

Unlike its predecessor, it:

- Reflects the growing focus on property resilience in the construction industry, substituting the word 'protection' with the word 'resistance', in line with language used by CIRIA (The Construction Industry Research and Information Association) and in other related publications
- Excludes a designated maximum water depth for testing, broadening the scope of the specification to products capable of meeting greater design depths
- Includes requirements to ensure that the primary function of products is considered and to simulate their exposure to real-life conditions, through, for example, cycling testing, dynamic-impact testing and overflow testing





Benefits of BS 851188 certification

Certification to the new standard will:

- Demonstrate your commitment to safety, performance and quality and your responsibilities to stakeholders and shareholders: it is supported by the UK Environment Agency
- Aligns with the CIRIA Code of Practice and guidance for Property Flood Resilience (PFR), part of the UK's national response to flood risk
- Help create more opportunities to trade outside the UK: a British Standard, 851188 is expected to carry more weight than its predecessor

Getting certified

You can buy the standard from BSI and test your products for conformity yourself. Alternatively, you can ask a third-party certification body such as BSI to certify your products for you.

Third-party certification has a significant advantage: it provides independent proof of your product-performance claims.

Why BSI?

Choose BSI as your certification partner, and you will receive third-party verification that you meet the standard from one of the best-know certification bodies in the world. Not only that, you'll have the opportunity to be certified to a 'gold' standard — the BSI Kitemark.

In light of the launch of BS 851188, we've updated our Kitemark scheme for flood-protection products. The new BSI Kitemark for Flood Resistance, based on BS 851188, proves that you not only meet all the testing requirements for the new standard but also that you have the quality management and factory production control systems to meet them over time. Under the terms of the Kitemark scheme, we make regular site visits, typically twice a year, to ensure the continuity of product quality and performance standards.



The BSI Kitemark difference

The Kitemark for Flood Resistance is available for a wide range of products for use in residential and commercial buildings, from flood doors and barriers designed to protect building apertures to air brick covers and demountable flood gates.

An entirely voluntary standard and exclusive to BSI, the world's first standards organisation, it demonstrates a business is committed to the highest standards of production and quality control possible.

It could help you win business from both local authorities — through, for example, the Environment Agency Network in the UK — and the private sector, at home and abroad.

For more information on BS 851188 and the BSI Kitemark for Flood Resistance, please get in touch with us:

Call: **+44 (0)345 0765 606**

Email: product.certification@bsigroup.com

Visit: bsigroup.com/kitemark

The BSI Kitemark:

- **Shows** you 'go the extra mile'
- **Helps** to differentiate your products from competitors'
- **Means** peace of mind — for your customers and you
- **Supports** and strengthens internal quality management systems
- **Helps create** a stable platform for growth

The BSI Kitemark: sign of a good business

About BSI?

For over a century we have 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, 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.

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BSI Group
Kitemark Court
Davy Avenue, Knowlhill
Milton Keynes MK5 8PP

T: +44 (0)345 076 5606
E: product.certification@bsigroup.com
bsigroup.com

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