



BSOL - An intuitive, responsive and straightforward solution for Knauf UK



Knauf is one of the world's leading manufacturers of modern insulation materials, drylining systems, plasters, accessories, thermal insulation composite systems, paints, floor screed, floor systems and construction equipment and tools.

- Over 250 production facilities
- 35,000 employees worldwide
- 2019 realized sales of 10 billion Euro

Its UK division, Knauf UK, was formed in 1989, and now has nearly 400 staff across two locations in Sittingbourne and Immingham. Its customers are architects, main contractors, subcontractors and retailers supplying above-ground construction materials.

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Michal Trudzik, R&D Technical Manager, Knauf UK

To find out how BSOL can help you with managing standards, contact us today on **+44 (0) 208 996 6353** or visit **bsigroup.com/bsol**

The business need for standards

Knauf UK manufactures the majority of its products in the UK but also imports (mainly from Knauf in Germany, Poland and Spain) and exports (in particular to Ireland). Standards are integral to this movement of goods because they specify the requirements that can ensure compliance with prevailing product, system and application regulations. This work will become even more important when, post-Brexit, UK legislation potentially starts to diverge from that of the EU.

Standards also supply the methods of test that are central to Knauf UK's product development. Its R&D department conducts a great deal of fire, impact, acoustic and environmental testing. As products are improved or adapted for new uses, or new products and systems are developed, it's critical they're compliant, and also that the market is provided with all necessary performance information. Through using product standards, R&D can give technical support and test data to clients. Standards are also a start-point for development projects, as they help predict project logistics.

Project Specification Managers also use product standards and test data for information on things like fire resistance or acoustic performance, to ensure that clients get the correct solution for any given project. Finally, management systems standards are used to ensure product quality, consistency and efficient production in the manufacturing areas of Knauf UK.

An intuitive, responsive and straightforward solution

Knauf UK subscribes to seven British Standards Online (BSOL) modules. It gives them quick, easy searching and instant access to all the standards they require. Michal Trudzik, R&D Technical Manager at Knauf UK notes that even in response to quite generic enquiries, BSOL can very rapidly help users locate the necessary standard, and search on content within a standard. **“If you can use Google you can use BSOL,”** he says. **“BSOL is intuitive, responsive and straightforward so it's very easy to find the right standards quickly and you can also easily save, download and add most commonly used ones to favourites.”**

Using BSOL he can also be confident he's using the latest version of the standard he's interested in – which is important. Moreover subscribers get email alerts whenever standards in their modules are being updated, plus

they have access to the Tracked Changes version wherever that exists. Users never get caught out using an out-of-date standard, and can also prepare for upcoming changes.

Another valuable feature of BSOL is that it holds not only current, but also superseded standards. **“It's really great to be able to look at what old documents said, compared to now,”** notes Michal, **“because we get enquiries for example when people are doing refurbishments on projects that are maybe 10 or 15 years old, and looking at the old standard can help answer those enquiries, which is brilliant.”**

A priceless standards management system

The use of BSOL leads to clear cost savings whenever the cost of the number of standards accessed exceeds the cost of the subscription – which is certainly the case with Knauf UK.

In addition, Michal points out that a great deal of time, and therefore money, is saved by using BSOL. Standards supply a tremendous amount of valuable information, which saves time and experimentation. BSOL unlocks that repository of information and makes it readily accessible. For instance when he's working with a client who wants to understand why something specific is needed, Michal can – there and then – log-in to the system and access reference points in the relevant standard. **“BSOL lets you move things forward without delay, stripping days or weeks out of going back later or rescheduling a meeting. That can be a priceless timesaver.”** He adds, **“It also shows your professionalism. It sends the right message that you have the current information at your fingertips. It helps you help others and to be more efficient.”**

BSOL also, in effect, keeps an enormous amount of data seamlessly organized on Knauf's behalf. As a result, its standards are always correctly referenced and up-to-date. Users can focus on their job. Without BSOL, Michal estimates that Knauf UK would need to look at employing another person just to take care of the standards it uses.

So would he recommend BSOL to others? He replies: **“BSOL is a brilliant starting point for anyone who needs access to standards – it's easy to use, and it's everywhere you need it to be – so yes, there's no doubt that I would recommend it.”**