Shoulders-Up Safety: Breaking Down the Latest PPE Standard Revisions

Agenda

Introduction

Key changes of the transition

Timeline

Testing lab enhancements

How to plan ahead

Related services

Q&A

Introduction

A warm welcome from BSI

We’re ready to walk you through the key changes, explain compliance requirements, and answer your questions.

Nathan Shipley - Certification Technical Expert

Nathan specializes in product assessment, scheme requirements, and compliance guidance for organizations working toward Benchmark certification.

Mike Thompson – Certification Team Manager

- Mike has worked in PPE for 25 years with product and certification knowledge covered mostly within CE, UKCA and KM.

Ross Drummond – Global Commercial Key Accounts Manager

Ross Drummond has worked in the commercial environment for 30 years, developing long-term, strategic partnerships with a company’s largest and most complex global customers, aligning the supplier’s solutions with the customer’s global business objectives to drive mutual growth.

Celebrating 125 of shaping trust, quality, and innovation

Poll question

How aligned is your organization with the upcoming EN 397 / EN 352 updates?

Update on BS 30417

BS 30417:2025 Provision of inclusive personal protective equipment (PPE)

UK Parliamentary update

Kirsteen Sullivan, Member of Parliament for Bathgate and Linlithgow, introduced a Ten Minute Rule Bill in the House of Commons to make PPE safer and designed to fit everyone properly.

The Bill would require all PPE used across the public sector to meet inclusive design standards, including compliance with BS 30417:2025, or an equivalent recognized standard, so it protects everyone it's meant to serve.

She commented, "This is about safety, dignity, and fairness. No one should have to choose between doing their job and staying safe."

The standard is available for free download

BS 30417:2025 | 10 Sep 2025 | BSI Knowledge

Key changes of the transition

Standards covered in this webinar

EN 397:2025
EN 50365:2023

EN 12941:2023
EN 12942:2023

EN 352 suite of standards

BS EN 397:2025 Industrial Protective Helmets

Published in 2025 and replaces the previous BS EN 397:2012+A1:2012

Not harmonized as yet, but we can still issue certification to the standard as a technical specification

- Industrial protective helmets are designed for use in a range of work environments—such as construction, mining, shipping, and manufacturing. They help protect workers from common hazards, including falling objects, slips and trips, falls from the same level or from height, and accidents caused by loss of control of machinery.
- They are designed to reduce the potential injury to the head and risks associated with the hazards but will not eliminate them completely.

BS EN 397:2025 Industrial Protective Helmets Key changes

Two Helmet Types:

The new standard introduces **Type 1 helmets** for general use **Type 2 helmets** for protection against top, side, and rear impacts.

Helmet type	Protection provided	Also
Type 1	Top (on-crown) impact protection only (like the older EN 397:2012+A1:2012 standard)	• A chinstrap is optional • Tested with 49 Joule top-impact energy
Type 2	Impacts on Top (crown), side, front & rear (off-crown) impact protection Similar to a mountaineering/working-at-height helmet.	• A chinstrap is mandatory but with stronger retention requirements • Impacts tested with 98 J on-crown and 24.5 J off-crown impacts

BS EN 397:2025 Industrial Protective Helmets

- **Enhanced Compatibility Testing:**

  Helmets are now tested more rigorously to ensure they work effectively with other personal protective equipment (PPE) like visors, face shields, and ear defenders.

- **Improved Drop Speed Measurement:**

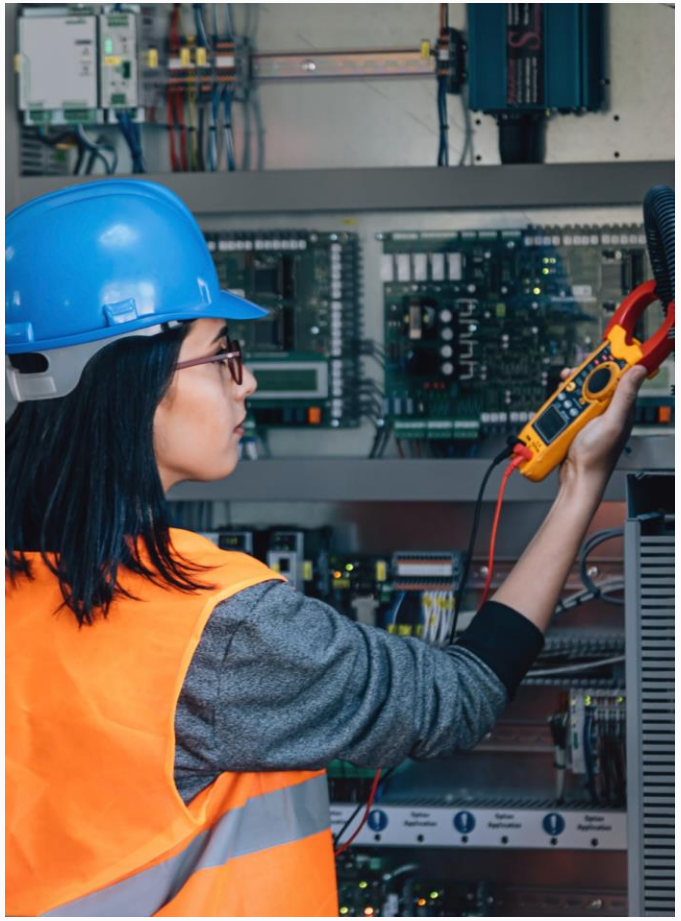
  The new standard introduces a more precise method for measuring drop speeds, improving testing consistency and accuracy.

- **New Electrostatic and Visibility Requirements:**

  EN 397:2025 adds requirements for electrostatic discharge protection and enhanced visibility features.

- **Updated Testing Methods:**

  The standard includes updated testing procedures for shock absorption, penetration resistance, and conditioning, as well as provisions for electrical insulation, flame, and molten metal resistance.



BS EN 50365:2023 Live-working electrically insulating helmets

BS EN 50365:2023 Live Working - Electrically insulating helmets for use on low and medium voltage installations was published in 2023 and replaces the previous BS EN 50365:2002

The standard covers helmets that:

- Provide **electrical insulation** as part of a system with other protective equipment.
- Are designed to **prevent dangerous current from passing through the wearer's head** during live electrical work.

These helmets are intended for use in environments where electrical hazards exist, such as utility work, low/medium-voltage electrical installations, and live maintenance tasks.

BS EN 50365:2023 Live working electrically insulating helmets

Key changes

Version	BS EN 50365:2002	BS EN 50365:2023
Status	Now withdrawn	Current standard
Scope	Electrically insulating helmets for live working	Same scope but modernised and restated; applies to ≤1,000 V AC / 1,500 V DC installations
Regulatory Alignment	Earlier PPE regulatory context	Updated to align with modern EU PPE regulation and practices
Testing & Requirements	Original testing framework from 2002	Updated methodologies and expanded modern requirements

Comparison: BS EN 50365:2023 vs EN 397:2025

These two standards both apply to protective helmets, but they serve **very different purposes** and apply to **different risk environments**.

Purpose & Application

BS EN 50365:2023 – Electrically Insulating Helmets

- Designed for **live working on low and medium voltage installations**.
- Provides insulation to prevent current flow through the head.
- Used where electrical hazards are the primary risk.

EN 397:2025 – Industrial Protective Helmets

- General industrial use: protection against **falling objects, impact, and work-at-height hazards**.
- Not specifically intended to provide electrical insulation (electrical option removed).

Feature	BS EN 50365:2023	EN 397:2025
Electrical insulation	Yes – required	No – 440 V AC option removed (now must use EN 50365 for electrical insulation)
Marking for electrical testing	Double or single triangle depending on AC/DC applicability	Removed from EN 397; refers to EN 50365 instead

EN 12941

Published in 2023 and supersedes the previous BS EN 12941:1998 + A2:2008.

Harmonized and adopted into the Official Journal.

- BS EN 12941:1998 + A2:2008 is due to be removed by October 2026
- Powered filtering devices incorporating a loose-fitting respiratory interface (hood, helmet or suit) are intended to be used in different work settings such as pharmaceutical, chemical industry, construction, welding, manufacturing, etc.
- These protect against gases, vapours and particulate matter. And offer respiratory protection in industrial and occupational settings.

EN 12942

Published in 2023 and supersedes the previous BS EN 12942:1998 + A2:2008.

Harmonized and adopted into the Official Journal.

- BS EN 12942:1998 + A2:2008 is due to be removed by October 2026
- Powered filtering devices incorporating a tight-fitting interface (full-face mask) are intended to be used in different work settings where a tight seal is required for prolonged protection in industrial and hazardous environments
- Environments could include the chemical industry, construction, asbestos (Class 3), manufacturing, etc
- These protect against gases, vapours and particulate matter.

Technical changes for EN 12941 & EN 12942

- Clogging has been deleted
- Warning facilities amended to cover low energy and low flow warning
- Test substances changed for inward leakage – SF6 and NaCl
- Field of vision integrated into the requirements for visor (EN12941)
- Noise level adapted to procedure in ISO 16900-14:2020
- Classification table amended to cover Hg & NO filter for all classes

EN 352

Published in 2020 with the implementation of CEN amendment A1 in 2024, these supersede the previous versions.

- Harmonized and adopted into the Official Journal.
- This suite of standards covers various types of hearing protection devices, including earplugs and earmuffs used in occupational and recreational settings to ensure performance criteria, including noise reduction, are met.

EN 352 – affected standards

- EN 352-2: 2020 +A1: 2024 – Hearing Protectors – Earplugs
- EN 352-6: 2020 +A1: 2024 – Hearing Protectors – Earmuffs with safety-related audio input
- EN 352-8: 2020 +A1: 2024 – Hearing Protectors – Entertainment audio earmuffs
- EN 352-9: 2020 +A1: 2024 – Hearing Protectors – Earplugs with safety-related audio input
- EN 352-10: 2020 +A1: 2024 – Hearing Protectors – Entertainment audio earplugs

Technical changes for EN 352

- EN 352-2: 2020 +A1: 2024

  Amendment affected only banded earplugs (under the chin) such as positioning, range of fitting and testing to EN 13819-1 + A1:2024

- EN 352-6: 2020 +A1: 2024

  Amendment affected by testing to EN 13819-3 + A1:2024

- EN 352-8: 2020 +A1: 2024

  Amendment affected Max dB for audio earmuffs with built-in DAB receivers.

- EN 352-9: 2020 +A1: 2024

  Amendment affected by testing to EN 13819-3 + A1:2024

- EN 352-10: 2020 +A1: 2024

  Amendment affected Max dB for audio earplugs with built-in DAB receivers

Poll question

When do you expect to review or upgrade your PPE to meet the new standards?

Timelines

Transition periods

CE certs

Existing

Remain valid unless the OJ specifies a transition

CE certs

New issues

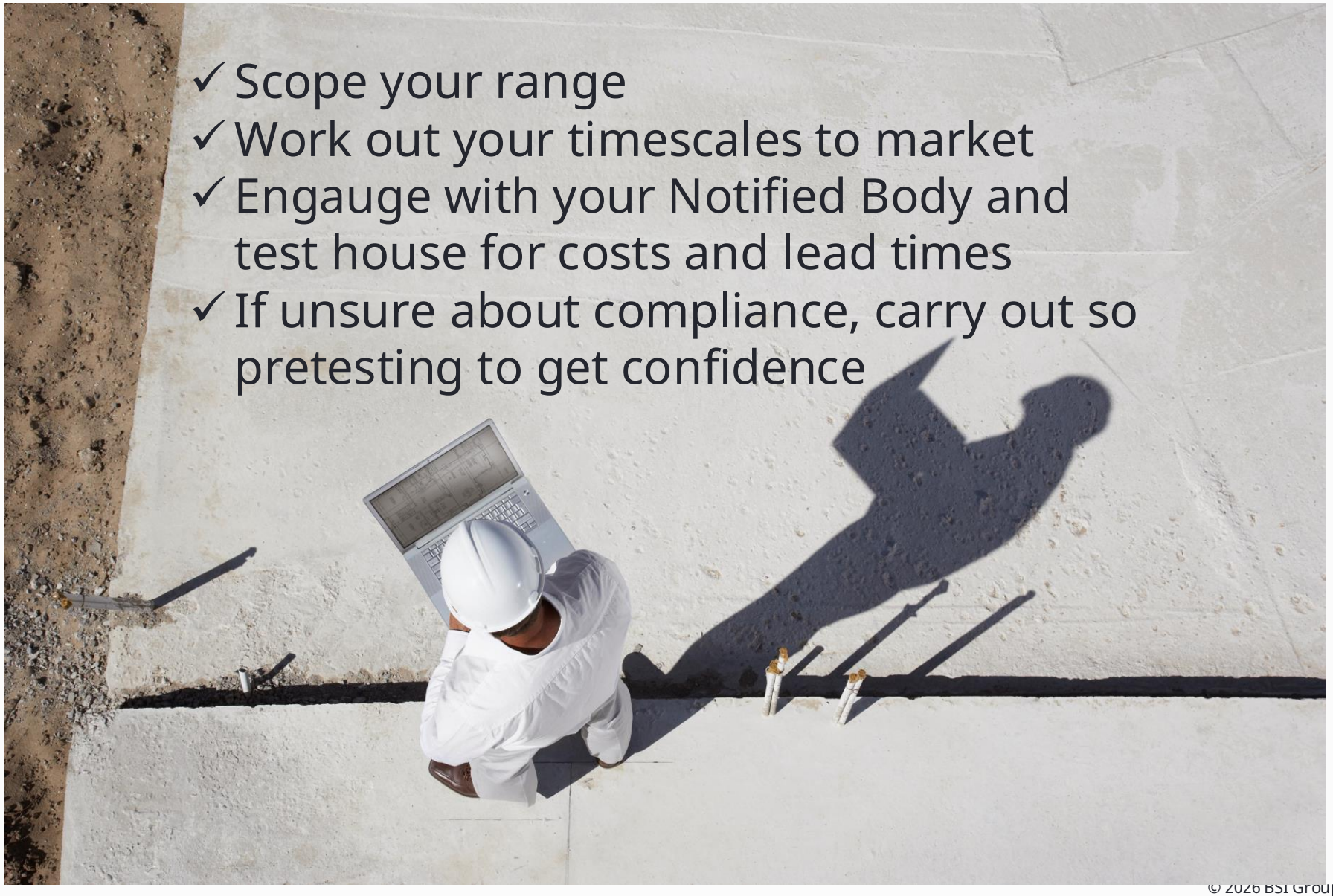
To the harmonised version or can be to a Tech Spec

Kitemark

BSI will be transitioning its current licence holders over a 12-month plan

We are expecting this to be very market driven

How to plan ahead



Q&A

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