

The Real Cost of Managing British Standards: Single Copy vs. Subscription

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Compliance with British Standards is essential for businesses and organizations across industries to meet certification, contractual, and regulatory obligations. Understanding the differences between these two options is key to determining which is right for your organization. Below is a clear comparison to help you make an informed choice.

Single Copy PDF Purchases

Individually licensed standards require separate purchases for each user and each standard. This approach can lead to inefficiencies and higher costs. Key considerations include:

1. Access Restrictions

- Limited to one user per license - no sharing or copying allowed.
- Additional licenses must be purchased for each additional user.

2. High Per-Document Costs

- Each standard costs approximately **£100 per user** (BSI Member rate).
- Example: 5 people needing access to 10 standards costs **£5,000** annually.

3. Manual Tracking of Updates

- Staff must dedicate time to monitor updates and revisions manually.

4. Time-Intensive Gap Analysis

- Identifying changes between old and new versions is labor-intensive.

5. Procurement Complexity

- Requires multiple purchase orders and coordination with finance for every standard.

6. Audit Preparation Challenges

- Manual tracking increases administrative burdens and risk of non-compliance.

Subscription with BSI Knowledge

A BSI Knowledge subscription provides centralized access to multiple users along with tools to automate and streamline compliance processes. Benefits include:

1. Shared Access

- Centralized, team-wide access for up to 30 users at no extra cost.
- Eliminates duplicate purchases for the same standard.

2. Cost Efficiency

- Annual subscription starts at just **£1,400** - covering access to 10 standards.
- Example: Cost for 5 people accessing 10 standards is £1,400, a significant saving compared to £5,000 for single copies.

3. Automated Updates

- Standards are automatically updated and tracked, reducing manual effort.

4. Efficient Gap Analysis

- Built-in tools provide a quick overview of changes between versions, saving time and reducing errors.

5. Streamlined Procurement

- Single annual payment simplifies procurement and reduces administrative overhead.

6. Audit-Ready Compliance

- Automated compliance tracking ensures all documentation and change logs are readily available.

Simplified Access to British Standards

| Option 1: Single Copy | Component | Option 2: BSI Knowledge Subscription PDFs |
|---|-------------------|---|
| Single user only, DRM restricts illegal sharing | Access | Shared with your entire team |
| Expensive, with limited access and multiple payments required for each standard or user | Cost | Affordable, with unlimited team access and a single payment covering all annual consumption |
| Single-user licenses, no sharing allowed / duplicate purchases required | Licensing | Permissive licensing for multiple users |
| No tracking of updates or revisions | Updates | Automatic updates and notifications |
| Tools to analyze gaps in standards coverage | Gap Analysis | Tools to analyze gaps in standards coverage |
| Separate purchase for each standard | Procurement | Single payment covers the entire subscription |
| Higher due to separate purchases | Cost per Standard | Lower overall cost per standard |
| Manual processes = potential for missed requirements / higher risk | Compliance | Automated processes, reduced risk and ensures compliance with regulations |

| Option 1: Single Copy | Why make the switch? | Option 2: BSI Knowledge Subscription PDFs |
|---|----------------------|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase standards individually for each user - expensive and time-consuming. • No tools for tracking updates or comparing versions. • Example: £2,500 + VAT for 5 people accessing 5 standards. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centralized access for your whole team - no extra cost per user. • Automatic updates and built-in tools for gap analysis. • Entry-level subscription is the same price as just 12 single standards! |

