

ISOs, Standards and Kite Marks

A number of organisations are involved in setting and publishing standards of this sort and do so to ensure consistency across a particular country or region of the world.

What is it?

A 'standard' is a document that sets out the specifications, guidelines, properties or requirements for materials, products, processes and services to ensure that they are fit for purpose.

You may well have come across some of the following in the course of your work:

ISO (International Organization for Standardization) **9000**
Quality Management

ISO (International Organization for Standardization) **14000**
Environmental Management

BSI (British Standards Institution) **OHSAS 18001** Occupational Health and Safety Management

CE Marks of various products. CE is the abbreviation from the French phrase Conformité Européene and literally means European Conformity.

BES (British Environmental Standards) **6001** Responsible Sourcing of Construction Products – created and published by the Building Research Establishment (BRE).

PAS 2060 Carbon Neutrality – PAS stands for Publicly Available Specification, a sponsored route to standardisation offered through the British Standards Institution (BSI).

Standards bodies exist with different jurisdictions, which create a hierarchy for businesses to understand and work with.

International Level

ISO is the International Organization for Standardization. ISO is an independent, non-governmental membership organisation and the largest developer of voluntary International Standards in the world. ISO comprises 162 member countries, which are the national standards bodies. The UK is represented through the British Standards Institution (BSI). ISO's central secretariat is based in Geneva, Switzerland.

IEC is the International Electrotechnical Commission, a global organisation concerned with the preparation and publication of International Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies.

European Level

CEN, CENELEC and ETSI are all European Standardisation bodies that are officially recognized by the European Union and by the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). They are each responsible for developing and defining voluntary standards at European level by bringing together national organisations like BSI.

CE Marks appear on many products that are traded on the single market in the European Economic Area (EEA). This also applies to products made in third countries, which are sold in the EEA and Turkey.

The CE mark itself is not a standard in itself but CE marking is mandatory for many products, showing that the manufacturer is declaring that the product conforms to the relevant requirements relating to:

- EU safety, health or environmental legislation
- the product's compliance with EU legislation
- allowing the free movement of products within the European market

UK Level

BSI is the national standards body for the UK, working with various organisations and sectors to develop and publish standards across a wide variety of topics. BSI is the modern organisation that grew from the British Standards Mark – known as the Kitemark – which was originally established in 1901.

American Standards

ASTM International, formerly known as the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), is a globally recognised leader in the development and delivery of international voluntary standards. Today, some 12,000 ASTM standards are used around the world to improve product quality, enhance safety, facilitate market access and trade and build consumer confidence.

Why is it important to me?

The quarrying industry uses and produces products and services that need to comply with various standards and you will inevitably come across these standards as part of your professional working life in the minerals industry.

Most construction products are covered by a 'harmonised European Standard' and therefore must be CE marked. However, the picture is more complicated with regard to some aggregates where there is no harmonised European Standard and a CE mark cannot be applied. Please refer to some of the websites below for more detailed information and guidance.

IQ believes that understanding standards and product marking is important for professionals working in the quarrying and minerals products industry. It features on our **Skills Wheel** which captures all the key skill and knowledge areas we believe are vital to successful career development in the industry.

Where Next?

To find out more about standards you will find the following websites useful:

ISO: www.iso.org

British Standards: www.bsigroup.com

CE Marking: www.gov.uk/ce-marking

CE Marking of Aggregates:

www.constructionproducts.org.uk/sustainability/products/ce-marking/
www.mineralproducts.org/prod_agg01.htm
www.mineralproducts.org/prod_cpr_ce_marking01.htm

ASTM International: www.astm.org

Institute of Quarrying

IQ supports professionals working within the quarrying and minerals products industry through membership and training. These factsheets are produced across a range of topics to share ideas and best practice. Further information can be found via the resources section on the IQ website www.quarrying.org.