BSI certification and testing for personal protective equipment

PPE can be defined as "any device to be worn or held by users for protection against one or more health and safety hazards". To meet legislation requirements, PPE manufacturers must ensure their products conform to the relevant National, European or International Standard or to a Technical Specification and are CE marked to the PPE Directive 89/686/EEC.

How BSI can help – With unrivalled experience, accredited certification and testing, and Notified Body status, BSI is committed to helping manufacturers of PPE meet and demonstrate compliance with the relevant standards, legislation and international market specifications.

BSI can offer:

BSI has Notified Body Status for **18 major European Directives,** including the PPE Directive. BSI is committed to helping PPE manufacturers meet and demonstrate their compliance with the relevant legislation.

Classification of PPE Equipment under the EU Directive

- **Simple** – Products for use with minimal hazards. Where the end user determines the risk and requires self certification by the manufacturer

- **Intermediate** – Products that fall into neither of the other two categories. A CE type examination must be conducted by a Notified Body

- **Complex** – Products that protect against mortal danger or that can be seriously harmful to health. A CE type examination must be conducted by a Notified Body plus ongoing surveillance.

The BSI Kitemark™

BSI can offer Kitemark certification, the distinctive symbol of quality and trust on many standards. 93%* of the UK adult population believe a Kitemark product is safer, and as such the Kitemark helps the consumer **and business** identify quality products that meet or even exceed industry standards, therefore giving the **supplier** a competitive advantage.

*GFK NOP Survey

CE marking

The majority of all PPE products sold in the EU must bear the CE mark, the sign of compliance to the EU Directive. BSI can offer a comprehensive range of testing and certification for **CE marking** which enables manufacturers to confidently and legally affix the CE mark.

Product Testing

With a worldwide reputation as an independent and impartial testing authority, BSI can test a wide range of products to **International, National and industry Standards** giving our **clients** access to global markets. We can also work with clients to create new technical specifications which can be used to test your products.

Other Services available from BSI

Pre-Assessment Services. For some products BSI can test to certain parts of a standard which will give an indication of whether the product is likely to pass the requirements of a standard.

Gap Analysis. BSI can provide a GAP-ANALYSIS service to show where a client is in relation to where they need to be to meet a certain standard, certification or directive/regulation.

bsi.

...making excellence a habit.™

Facial protection

Hearing protection

In. BSI can test and certify a wide range of hearing protection including various designs of earmuffs and earplugs. BSI has Notified Body status under the PPE and Low Voltage Directives which are relevant for this type of equipment as well as being able to provide BSI Kitemark certification. Typical testing by BSI includes: physical tests, active attenuation, insertion loss, passive attenuation.

Eye Protection

BSI can certify test many forms of eye protection including welding masks and visors, protective goggles, and safety glasses. In many instances eye protection is integrated into head protection to protect the face from impacts, sparks, molten metal or electrical arcs. BSI Kitemark may be achieved for certain eye protection products.
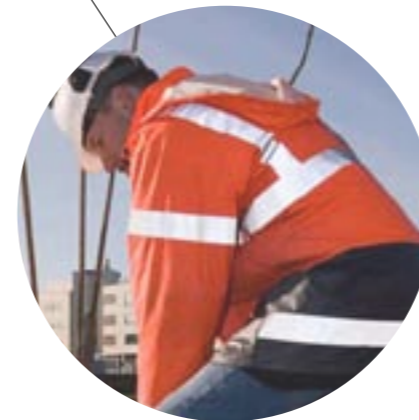
Respiratory products

Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) needs to offer protection against a wide range of hazards, such as smoke and dust inhalation to vapours and oxygen deficiency. The protection factors provided by RPE are laid out in BS EN529: 2005; Guide to implementing an effective respiratory device programme.

All respiratory equipment must undergo type examination using a Notified Body before CE marking can be affixed. Where the respiratory device is incorporated with headwear, eyewear or hearing protection BSI can offer an integrated test and certification package. For products that incorporate electronic devices, BSI has an electrical safety laboratory, proving a one stop shop for all needs. The BSI Kitemark certification is also available for respiratory protection products.

Impact protection

Sports Helmets

BSI works with manufacturers of both a wide range of sports goods, covering sports including cycling, rugby, cricket, motorsports and equestrianism. Our reputation for excellence in standards is such that the British Equestrian Federation and The Pony Club will only allow riders to take part in an equestrian event if they are wearing a BSI Kitemarked Helmet. Helmet tests include: Impact absorption, retention strength and effectiveness, penetration resistance, lateral crush (equestrian), flammability (motorsport).

Helmets

BSI can certify and test a range of head protection products from a basic impact helmet for cyclists to sophisticated helmets with integrated respiratory and communications equipment. BSI is also the UK test authority for vehicle user helmets and visors to AS 1698 and AS 1609 respectively. BSI Kitemark certification is available for vehicle user and equestrian helmets.

Body Armour

BSI Impact Protection Laboratory tests a wide range of protective products for the body. Products we certify include: knee and elbow pads (for motorcycling), knee and elbow pads (for sport), gaiters and protective footwear, rugby clothing, cricket boxes and football Shin pads. (Other types of impact protection that BSI can test include playground surfacing).

The BSI PPE portfolio

Hand and foot protection

Glove Protection

BSI can certify a wide range of gloves and hand protection which protect against hazards including chemicals, heat and fire, cold temperatures and electric current. We are also able to test certify multi hazard resistant gloves such as those used by fire fighters characterised by additional protection against upper hand impact, high visibility strips, and watertight anti-slip capacity.

Protective Footwear

Some types of footwear are a PPE Complex category such as fire fighter foot protection. Therefore in addition to satisfying the initial requirements of the Directive, the manufacturer must also demonstrate annually to a Notified Body such as BSI that the product continues to comply with the requirements of the standard it was initially tested against.
BSI can certify footwear including safety footwear, occupations footwear, for footwear for fire fighters.

Protective workwear

High Visibility Clothing

The standard for high visibility is BS EN 471:2003+A1:2007. The tests for garments and materials within the standard include material tests which examine: colour – chromaticity and luminance, colour fastness and physical tests, dimensional stability and breathability/waterproof. Protective clothing designed to provide protection against risks, for instance flame retardant high visibility warning clothing, must be certified separately for each hazard.

Protective clothing

BSI can test to a number of standards designed to assess the wide range of products offering suit protection. These range from those that protect against extremes of temperature or chemical exposure to splash proof aprons. BSI Kitemark certification is also available for this range of products

Fall Arrest Equipment

BSI can help you certify your products to a range of standards to cover the different types of equipment used. This includes full body harnesses and work positioning belts in addition to other products listed in our standards sheet.

The BSI Kitemark™ certification journey

1 **Client application**
Manufacturer/designer/ service provider submits application with basic details (inc. range of products/ services covered)

2 **Contract review**
- BSI review Kitemark application
- Requests additional information
- Prepares quote

3 **Quote acceptance**
Manufacturer/supplier/ designer/service provider accepts quotation.

4 **Initial assessment**
FPC or quality management system assessed by BSI

5 **Product testing**
- Initial type testing completed by BSI or evidence of testing submitted
- Inspection of service delivery

6 **Evaluation**
BSI considers all evidence and assesses against product manual/ standard and makes recommendation

7 **Risk and compliance check**
BSI independently review recommendation and evidence and make a decision

8 **Kitemark certificate**
Certificate is issued if decision is positive.
Annual surveillance Incl. FPC/QMS and audit testing/inspection.

A partnership through compliance

With a wealth of experience in the testing and certification field, BSI is ideally equipped to work with you from the design stage through to the testing and compliance process, helping you to get your products on the marketplace.

Whatever level of service is required, from certification to custom product testing or project management for specialist out-sourced testing, BSI is here to help every step of the way.

Call +971 4 336 4917 today or visit our website www.bsigroup.ae

- Maximise business potential

- Standards and publications

- Information, guidance and advice

- Training – courses, in-company and eLearning

- Gap analysis

- Management systems certification

- Entropy™ Software – integrate all your management systems with one click

Please contact us. Our team will be happy to help you.
Call us: +971 4 336 4917 Email: bsi.me@bsigroup.com or visit: www.bsigroup.ae

bsi.