



Cones and Cylinders – Information Bulletin

Introduction

Road cones and traffic cylinders have been in regular use on our roads since the 1970's significantly contributing to the safer guidance of motorists through and past temporary incidents or works sites on our roads. It is estimated that about 2million road cones are utilised on our roads each year. This level of usage emphasizes the importance and value of the contribution that these products make to road safety. This bulletin provides advice on the use of the European performance standard and its relationship to UK regulations. Guidance is also provided relating to those additional publications that need to be considered in conjunction with the standard to ensure the correct specification and deployment of these products.

Cones and cylinders used on public roads in the UK should be tested and certified to the definitions, categories and classes of the European Standard which contains all of the technical requirements for cones and cylinders.

Legal Requirements

Cones and Cylinders are prescribed by regulation in the UK by The latest Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD) and any amendments to them. These regulations specify the design, type, colour, dimensions and usage of these products together with their illumination requirements.

Guidance

Guidance on the correct use and deployment of traffic cones and cylinders may be found in the following publications.

The Traffic Signs Manual, Chapter 8: Traffic Safety Measures and Signs for Road Works and Temporary Situations

Part 1: Design.

Part 2: Operations.

Safety at Street Works and Road Works a Code of Practice (the Red Book) gives detailed advice on cone layouts at road works and is mandatory for the Public Utilities.

Manual of Contract Documents for Highway Works

Volume 1: Specification for Highway Works Series 1200 Traffic Signs

Volume 2: Notes for Guidance on The Specification for Highway Works Series 1200 traffic Signs NG.

Standards

BS EN 13422 is the British and European Standard for cones and cylinders. It includes the following classifications.

Category A Cone or Cylinder: A cone or cylinder which is totally retroreflective (except for the base plate of a cone).

Category B Cone or Cylinder: A cone or cylinder in which only a part or parts of the body are retroreflective.

Classes S1 and S2 specify the shapes of cones and differ in the angle of the lower 25% of the height above the base.

Classes W1, W2 and W3 specify three different minimum weights for each height of cone.

Classes R1A, R2A, R1B and R2B specify the minimum retroreflective performance (night-time visibility). The R2 classes have the higher brightness. There is a requirement that when wet retroreflective surfaces achieve 70% of the values for the appropriate of these classes. There are also visual performance requirements for daylight appearance of both internal and external non-reflective and reflective surfaces.

Also included in the requirements of this standard are low temperature impact, resistance to bending and fatigue (traffic cylinders), stability of traffic cones, a drop test for testing security of ballast for cones and testing for adhesion and continuity of retroreflective surfaces. There is also a Factory Production Control Quality System requirement

REMA Cones and Cylinders Subcommittee – Code of Practice

- To manufacture and/or supply compliant products
- To promote the use of compliant products in the market place
- To promote and improve awareness of applicable standards and best practice
- To contribute to the development of good standards and regulations
- To conform to ethical practices
- To adhere to the REMA Code of Practice
- To support and promote REMA as an association

REMA

The Retroreflective Equipment Manufacturers Association (REMA) was founded over 40 years ago and is the trade association and co-ordinated voices for manufacturers of retroreflective traffic safety products which are used mainly on the highways but also, for example, at airports and industrial sites.

All REMA members are required to follow the REMA Constitution as well as the REMA Code of Practice. This ensures that products supplied by REMA members conform to the latest Standards, Regulations and Legislation - a guarantee of quality.

Further Information

Website: <https://www.rema.org.uk>

Enquiries: <mailto:info@rema.org.uk>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/traffic-signs-signals-and-road-markings>

provides direct access to the Traffic Signs Manual and provides links to TSRGD and its amendments.