

# The British Standards Institution Kitemark<sup>®</sup>



The British Standards Institution (BSI), first formed in 1901, has promoted the compliance of manufactured products with recognised standards for over 100 years.

Today, BSI Product Services, the Product Testing and Certification Division of BSI, operates over 500 Kitemark schemes and has upwards of 3,000 Kitemark licensees worldwide. The Kitemark can be achieved for a diverse range of products from windows to crash helmets to carbon monoxide alarms and various fire detection and alarm products.

The Kitemark is one of the best-known and respected product certification marks in the world and gives you reassurance that products bearing the Kitemark have been tested to the latest requirements and beyond.

## **Product Confidence**

Companies with Kitemark certification have confidence in their product. These companies are required to provide BSI with unrestricted access to their offices and factories and allow regular testing of randomly selected samples. As Kitemark certification is completely voluntary, it is a declaration by the manufacturer or distributor of a product that they practice utmost due diligence to deliver products that deliver trust, safety and confidence with the consumer.



The Kitemark  
logo

To achieve the prestigious Kitemark a CO Alarm is tested to its type-test standard, plus further verification testing and ongoing surveillance. Manufacturers can make claims of product conformity to Standards themselves; however these claims can often be at best unreliable, or at worst untruthful. Independent verification is clearly the safer and more robust metric to go by.

## **'Best value' purchasing**

A prime consideration in purchasing is 'best value' in terms of cost, performance and reliability as well as 'conformity to specification'. Kitemark gives consumers the reassurance of the product's consistency and quality, which has been independently verified by BSI's many experts.

## **Customer Confidence**

The Kitemark shows that a manufacturer has enlisted the expertise of BSI Product Services, as an independent third party, to certify conformity and consistency and so delivering customer confidence.

## **Why do I need a CO alarm?**

Carbon monoxide (CO) gas is a highly poisonous gas, which is produced as a result of the incomplete combustion of fuels such as gas, petrol, paraffin and solid fuels such as coal. CO gas is odourless, colourless and cannot be tasted.

In order to protect the occupant of domestic premises against the possibility of asphyxiation through CO gas inhalation, CO Alarms should be fitted. CO alarms should be tested and certified to the requirements of BS EN50291: 2001, which is a British and European standard that specifies the rigorous requirements the CO alarm has to meet for certification.

CO alarms are suitable for location in rooms containing fuel-burning appliances such as gas fires, gas cookers, central heating boilers and paraffin heaters etc.

When buying a CO alarm or in fact smoke alarms and heat alarms for the protection of your home look for the Kitemark. This can be located on the product packaging and on the product label.

### The Kitemark symbol

The Kitemark symbol on the product or packaging will have letters and numbers associated with it that refer to the standard it is certified against, plus the licence number relating to the manufacturer or distributor who attained the licence. Both of these #'s can be searched via the BSI website for verification. In some instances, the scheme name is also included.

