

STATUS OF BS 6700: DESIGN, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND MAINTENANCE OF SERVICES SUPPLYING WATER FOR DOMESTIC USE WITHIN BUILDINGS AND THEIR CURTILAGES – SPECIFICATION



Status of BS 6700: Design, installation, testing and maintenance of services supplying water for domestic use within buildings and their curtilages – Specification

BS 6700 is referred to in a number of clauses of the Government Guidance to the Water Fittings Regulations, including:-

- G8.3 design flow rates for outlets;
- G12.2 & 3 pressure testing of rigid and plastic pipes; and
- G13.1& 3 flushing and disinfection of plumbing systems.

BS 6700 is also used when assessing whether installation etc. is “in a workmanlike manner” in accordance with Regulation 4(6)(a).

However BS 6700 is to be replaced by a new British Standard BS EN 806, which is currently under development.

BS EN 806 is being produced in five parts, with parts 1 to 4 already published. As some of the information given in those parts of BS EN 806 already available differs to that provided in BS 6700, BSI has been asked to clarify the status of BS 6700.

BSI has confirmed that BS EN 806 does not become the definitive text until all parts of EN 806 are completed, which is scheduled to be June 2012. There is a transition period arrangement under CEN whereby BS 6700 and BS EN 806 will co-exist for 6 months before BS 6700 is withdrawn. Whilst much of the content of BS 6700 is covered by BS EN 806 parts 1-5 it will not incorporate everything. Therefore when BS 6700 is withdrawn the information and detail that has not been included in BS EN 806, providing that it is not contradictory, will be retained in a new standard, BS 8558. (This is to be published at the same time as BS EN 806 part 5.) BS 8558 is intended to be both a guide to BS EN 806 as well as a supplement to it.

Whilst BSI has already carried out a gap analysis between BS 6700 and BS EN 806, to confirm that the requirements of the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations and Scottish Water Byelaws have been both considered and accommodated in the development of BS EN 806 and BS 8558 the Scheme has commissioned a comparison of BS 6700: 2006 against BS EN 806.

BSI has advised that when BS EN 806 and BS8558 are completed and the transition period commences, references to BS 6700 in documents will need to be replaced by reference to BS EN 806 or BS 8558 or both. Bearing in mind that the requirements of the Regulations/Byelaws take precedence over those of British Standards until we have a clearer understanding of the requirements specified in both standards we would suggest that the best course of action is to recognise BS 6700 as the current standard and view any differences or variation between it and specific parts or clauses in BS EN 806 parts 1-4 as revisions that may be adopted in June 2012. Whilst adopting this approach is not without its problems and will not be satisfactory to all, it will at least provide an opportunity for those who use BS 6700 to develop and introduce a strategy for dealing with the transition from BS 6700 to BS EN 806 parts 1-5.