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BSI Standards Publication

Traffic control equipment — Signal heads

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National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN 12368:2024. It supersedes BS EN 12368:2015, which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee EPL/526, Road traffic control signals.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

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English Version

Traffic control equipment - Signal heads

Équipement de régulation du trafic - Signaux

Anlagen zur Verkehrssteuerung - Signalleuchten

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 29 January 2024.

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This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

CEN members are the national standards bodies of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye and United Kingdom.



EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

CEN-CENELEC Management Centre: Rue de la Science 23, B-1040 Brussels

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European foreword

This document (EN 12368:2024) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 226 “Road equipment”, the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by October 2024, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by January 2026.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

This document supersedes EN 12368:2015.

This document has been prepared under a mandate given to CEN by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association.

The main changes in this revision EN 12368:2024 compared to the previous edition EN 12368:2015 are as follows:

- a) editorial changes for enhanced clarity and consistency;
- b) change of the scope to include voluntarily application of this standard to other types of signal heads;
- c) clarification of the terms optical surface and reference axis;
- d) change of the headline of 4.2 to better match the content;
- e) part of the content of 6.3 and 6.4 was moved to 8.2;
- f) the explanatory notes in 6.6 referred to the obsolete incandescent lamp technology and were changed based on the current LED technology;
- g) change in the wording of 6.8 for better technical clarification;
- h) change in the testing method regarding the stabilization of the luminous intensity in 8.2;
- i) added the address as an information which is required to be on the product label.

Any feedback and questions on this document should be directed to the users’ national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found on the CEN website.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organisations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye and the United Kingdom.

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Introduction

Signal heads are mainly used to transfer safety messages to the road user to achieve specific reactions. Signal heads in road traffic transfer this information optically by signal lights which have a specific meaning and which differ in their colour of light and in the design of their illuminating surface.

The visibility of a signal light depends on the colour, luminous intensity, luminous intensity distribution, luminance and luminance uniformity, the surrounding luminance (background luminance), the size of the illuminating area, the phantom light and the distance and angle between observer and signal head.

Four angular distributions of luminous intensities for signal lights are specified. The user can choose between an extra wide, wide, medium and narrow beam signal to obtain a good recognition of the signal for short distances in urban areas, for long distances in rural areas. To achieve a good performance the standard provides a number of different performance levels and two different diameters for the optical units.

This document does not require limits for the recognition of red or green signals with reduced luminous intensities operating in a failure mode. These limits depend on the surrounding lights (on or off) and on the situation. However, for a simple rule a red signal should be considered as failed if the luminous intensity in the reference axes is $I \leq 10$ cd, and a green signal should be considered as being in operation if the luminous intensity is $I \geq 0,05$ cd.

The working environment for signal heads is relatively harsh and equipment that is deemed “fit for purpose” is expected to last in this exposed, corrosive environment for a minimum of 10 years. It is essential that all materials and manufacturing processes take this into account. The supplier should detail all steps taken to comply with this clause.

The optical performance of signal heads in use is a function of lens soiling, mirror soiling and a decrease of luminous flux from the lamp. To maintain the performance of the signal heads during their lifetime, it is important to ensure that after lamp replacement and cleaning of lens and mirror the light output is restored to as near 100 % as possible and never lower than 80 % of the declared specified performance.

For devices randomly selected from series production it is important that the product characteristic as to minimum luminous intensity of the light emitted, are in each relevant direction, of the minimum values prescribed.

For a full applicability of this document the national standardization/regulatory bodies are requested to define the set of classes relevant for their national requirements.

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1 Scope

This document applies to signal heads with one or more signal lights of the colours red, yellow and/or green signal lights for road traffic with 200 mm and 300 mm roundels and to optical units to be integrated in signal heads to produce the individual signal lights. It defines the product characteristics for the visual, structural, environmental performances and testing of signal heads and optical units for pedestrian and road traffic use, and the rules for the evaluation of the conformity of these products.

This document can be partly or fully applied on a voluntary basis to other signal heads outside of the scope specified above like for instance white optical units or small signal heads with a diameter smaller than 200 mm.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 50293, *Road traffic signal systems - Electromagnetic compatibility*

EN 50556, *Road traffic signal systems*

EN 60068-2-1, *Environmental testing - Part 2-1: Tests - Test A: Cold*

EN 60068-2-2, *Environmental testing - Part 2-2: Tests - Test B: Dry heat*

EN 60068-2-5, *Environmental testing — Part 2-5: Tests — Test Sa: Simulated solar radiation at ground level and guidance for solar radiation testing (IEC 60068-2-5)*

EN 60068-2-14, *Environmental testing - Part 2-14: Tests - Test N: Change of temperature*

EN 60068-2-30, *Environmental testing - Part 2-30: Tests - Test Db: Damp heat, cyclic (12 h + 12 h cycle)*

EN 60068-2-64, *Environmental testing - Part 2-64: Tests - Test Fh: Vibration, broadband random and guidance*

EN 60529, *Degrees of protection provided by enclosures (IP Code)*

EN 60598-1:2015, *Luminaires - Part 1: General requirements and tests*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>

3.1

signal head

device which comprises one or more optical units, including the housing(s), together with all the mounting brackets, fixings, hoods, visors, cowls and background screens, whose task is to convey a visual message to vehicle and pedestrian traffic