

The Passive Revolution

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10 July 2009

Dear

TEST REPORTS - COMPETENCE OF TEST LABORATORIES

In my letter, dated 9 February 2006, I set out a procedure for 3rd party checks on test reports for passively safe products. At that time there were few laboratories who had 'accreditation' to test against EN 12767. With CE marking a number of facilities now operate within the EU and it has been questioned if this procedure is still acceptable.

EN12767 is not an independent standard; it is a support standard that identifies one particular characteristic. This characteristic would be declared in addition to other characteristics required by the main standard in the manufacturers declaration (In the form quoted within Annex ZA.1 of that standard, for Lighting Columns this would be EN 40 and EN 12899 for Traffic Signs) This was intended to facilitate the introduction of CE marking.

EN 12767 cross-references EN ISO/IEC 17025 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories. This allows Accreditation Bodies to use this as a model when assessing laboratories, however it is not a mandatory requirement that every laboratory must be accredited. The Notified Body will determine if the manufacturer has provided sufficient information, carried out checks, assess the validity of test reports, etc and will confirm that it is appropriate to CE mark.

CE marking is, at this time, not mandatory in the UK however it is expected that this may change in the near future. When this happens the Highways Agency will only accept passively safe products that bear the CE mark.

Until then the Highways Agency will continue to accept the use of passively safe products on the Motorway and All Purpose Trunk Road Network on the basis of independent third party checks, confirming the test reports are appropriate and comply with BS EN 12767

If this has been carried out I am prepared to accept the use of these without the need for a 'formal departure from standards' relating to certification.

The products listed on the 'Table of Available Products' pages of www.thepassiverevolution.com meet this requirement and I am content for these products to be used on Highways Agency Roads.

Yours sincerely

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