

## PRYSMIAN GUIDE TO CHANGES OF BRITISH STANDARD NUMBERS EN 50525, BS 6004 AND BS 7211



**At the end of 2012 a number of changes to British Standards will come into effect.**

1. Some existing British Standards featuring HAR products will be withdrawn on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012.
2. BS EN 50525 for wiring and flexible cables up to and including 450/750 V was published in September 2011 and will become fully effective from 1st January 2013 and replaces a number of existing British Standards being withdrawn on 31st December 2012.
3. There will be changes to existing standards BS 6004 and BS 7211 which were re issued in September 2012.

None of these amendments require changes to Prysmian manufacturing and market practice.

### WHAT ARE THE KEY CHANGES?

#### 1. The following British Standards will be withdrawn on 31st December 2012

BS 638-4	Arc welding power sources, equipment and accessories. Specification for welding cables
BS 6007	Electric cables – Single core unsheathed heat-resisting cables for voltages up to and including 450/750 V, for internal wiring
BS 6500	Electric cables – Flexible cords rated up to 300/500 V, for use with appliances and equipment intended for domestic, office and similar environments
BS 7919	Electric cables – Flexible cables rated up to 450/750 V, for use with appliances and equipment intended for industrial and similar environments

## 2. The introduction of BS EN 50525

In 2011 a new European Standard, EN 50525, covering wiring and flexible cables up to and including 450/750 V was issued and it supersedes the earlier harmonisation documents HD21 and HD22. Previously national standard bodies, such as the BSI, had freedom to issue their own national technically equivalent standards. Now, the new EN format must be implemented unchanged. The British Standards Institute therefore published all 18 parts of BS EN 50525.

One impact of this will be that 6491X and 6491B currently manufactured and tested to BS 6004 and BS 7211 are now excluded from those British Standards and are now be covered by EN 50525.

6491X:	Previously BS 6004	Now manufactured to BS EN 50525-2-31:2011
6491B:	Previously BS 7211	Now manufactured to BS EN 50525-3-41:2011. 90 °C cross linked

A number of cables with UK CMA codes and harmonised references will now be covered by the BS as shown in the table below:

<b>2.a Table of existing standards, harmonised codes and new Standard numbers</b>		
<b>UK cable codes</b>	<b>HAR codes</b>	<b>New cable standard</b>
2491X	H05V U	BS EN 50525-2-31
2491X	H05V K	BS EN 50525-2-31
6491X	H07VU	BS EN 50525-2-31
6491X	H07VR	BS EN 50525-2-31
6491X	H07VK	BS EN 50525-2-31
218-Y	H03VV F	BS EN 50525-2-11
2192Y	H03VVH2 F	BS EN 50525-2-11
318-Y	H05VVF	BS EN 50525-2-11
3192Y	H05VVH2 F	BS EN 50525-2-11
2491B	H05Z U	BS EN 50525-3-41
2491B	H05Z K	BS EN 50525-3-41
6491B	H07Z U	BS EN 50525-3-41
6491B	H07Z R	BS EN 50525-3-41
6491B	H07Z K	BS EN 50525-3-41
218-B	H03Z1Z1 F	BS EN 50525-3-11
2192B	H03Z1Z1H2 F	BS EN 50525-3-11
318-B	H05Z1Z1 F	BS EN 50525-3-11
3192B	H05Z1Z1 H2 F	BS EN 50525-3-11

U = SOLID CONDUCTOR, R = RIGID STRANDED CONDUCTOR, K = FLEXIBLE CONDUCTOR FOR FIXED INSTALLTIONS, F = FLEXIBLE CONDUCTOR FOR FLEXIBLE APPLICATIONS

### Changes to Flexible cords.

BS 6500 and BS 7919 have now been replaced by the BS EN 50525 as detailed in the box below. It should be noted that in BS EN 50525-1 section 7.4 and annex A it describes tests and requirements to be met for the mechanical strength of flexible cables. These are new tests and you need to ensure your cable supplier can meet these. Where cables are required to be “halogen free”, the standard now clearly shows a procedure for assessment in BS EN 50525-1, 7.5 B. Again you should make sure your cable supplier complies with these requirements.

Flexible cords	Previously BS 6500 & BS 7919	Now manufactured to BS EN 50525-2-11. PVC Flex
		Now manufactured to BS EN 50525-2-21. Rubber flex
		Now manufactured to BS EN 50525-3-11. LSOH Flex TP 70 °C
		Now manufactured to BS EN 50525-3-21. LSOH Flex XL 90 °C
		NB: BS EN 50525-1 para 7.4 and annex A have new requirements for mechanical strength of flex

### 3. Changes to BS 6004 and BS 7211

BS 6004 and BS 7211 were reissued in September 2012. 6491X and 6491B have now been removed from these standards and appear in BS EN 50525. BS 6004 and BS 7211 now cover only selected UK cables designs and will now include Arctic Flexible cords. The detail are in the table below:

BS 6004	Now covers:	6181Y, 6192Y, 6241Y, 6242Y, 6243Y, 3192A, 318-A (arctic flex).
BS 7211	Now covers:	6181B, 6242B etc

### Changes to cable marking.

In recent years the Approved Cables Initiative (ACI) has highlighted that the absence of marking, or the inadequacies of incomplete or erroneous marking are a major safety hazard. The BSI and major stakeholders such as BASEC and the BCA have worked together to promote improvements to British Standards to ensure marking requirements are clear. The new BS 7211 and BS 6004 will feature the following mandatory elements of marking:

Element	Explanation
Cable manufacturer	This should be the original manufacturer's name and their unique factory identifier. Where the manufacturer has a recognised trademark or equivalent, this may be added, but may not replace the requirement for name and factory identifier.
Electric cable	The marking "ELECTRIC CABLE" is a well established safety item, and is retained.
Voltage designation	Some standards have cables of only a single voltage rating, say 300/500 V. Others may contain cables of more than one voltage rating. The marked rating must correspond to that of the actual cable in question.
British Standard number	By marking the standard number, for instance "BS 6004", the manufacturer is making a declaration of conformity, i.e. a claim by or on behalf of the manufacturer that the product meets the requirements of the standard. The accuracy of the claim is solely the claimant's responsibility. The declaration is not to be confused with third-party certification of conformity.
UK cable code	The various codes, such as 6242Y, are easily recognised by installers and other professionals, providing an invaluable instant recognition of the cable type. The concept is now widely used in European cable standards.
Number of cores and nominal area of conductor	This augments the code by showing precisely the make-up of the cable and especially conductor cross-sectional area in millimetres. This is crucial to safety calculations relating to current ratings and voltage drops. A typical marking may be "3 x 1.5".
	Where a cable has an insulated circuit protective conductor (CPC) it is required also to add for instance "+ 1.0" indicating in such a case that the CPC has a 1 mm <sup>2</sup> conductor size.
Year of manufacture	The year of manufacture may take the form of the actual year (e.g. 2013) or a coded year identifier assigned by the manufacturer. This acts as a significant aid to traceability in the case of a problem.
Standard core colour identifier	Following European harmonisation of core colours, and to allow the British Standards to continue to be used in non-European countries that use UK wiring practices, it became essential to provide an external marking to indicate use of the harmonised colours. That marking is the letter "H".

Because all of the above elements of marking constitute safety aspects of the correct installation and use of the cable, it is essential that the markings be permanent and durable to recognise that the useful lifetime of the cable may be measured in decades. In these four standards such markings are to be applied by embossing or indenting. Certain additional information, such as for instance metre or length marks, may be applied alternatively by printing techniques.

Whilst it is not mandatory to have these cables approved by a 3rd party body (in the UK such as BASEC) many manufacturers recognise the benefits of doing so. Where the manufacturer wishes to declare such approval, it shall be in accordance with the marking requirements of the Approval Body. These standards specify the method of such marking.

#### **Key dates in the changeover**

**30th September 2011** - BS EN 50525 (18 parts) published by BSI. From this date manufacturers may choose to declare conformity to this standard in place of the pre-existing British Standards, but it is not mandatory.

**September 2012** - Publication of new editions of BS 6004 and BS 7211.

**31st December 2012** - Withdrawal of BS 638-4, BS 6007, BS 6500 and BS 7919.

**1st January 2013** - BS EN 50525 (18 parts) comes into effect fully, plus the new editions of BS 6004 and BS 7211.

#### **Prysmian & The changeover**

Prysmian will fully implement the required changes in line with the 1st January 2013 target dates. Any stock made prior to this date is fully BASEC approved and can be used and sold in the market place.

There is a transition period advised by BASEC which extends to the end of 2013, wherein BASEC will continue to offer HAR certification to the British Standards/HDs until this deadline when certificates will be cancelled. All new BASEC approvals required by Prysmian cables have been applied for and will be in place for this deadline.

There are no changes to cables currently supplied by Prysmian but there are some changes covering new tests for flexible cables and you should check your supplier now complies with these.

As our customer you can continue to supply cables already in your possession from ourselves and also cable that may be delivered to you in 2013, where the cables may still be marked 2012. These are perfectly fine to sell as the new regulations effect manufacturing not supply. In effect, all you need do is to continue to order your cable exactly as you have in the past from us and we Prysmian, will supply cable correctly marked and approved for sale in the market place.



A brand of the

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