

PAS 43:2008 V PAS 43:2010

The initial review of the two standards has highlighted some significant changes for all parties to conform to. Obviously, some of the basic introductions with changes to standards and terms of references seem not to affect any formal change, but one needs to read on to highlight the details, especially the now required higher competence levels for Certification and Inspection Bodies to meet requirements of this new standard.

Changes

The standard can now apply to other areas outside of Britain, so some points of legislation must refer back to that particular country. Additional legislation has been added for reference and again needs to be reviewed. Normative references i.e. the standards' specific reference has been made to ISO/IEC 17020 and ISO/IEC 17021 covering Certification and Inspection Bodies and finally, conformity assessment against ISO/IEC 17050-1.

3 Terms and Definitions

- 3.6. Near miss has been defined and makes reference to the SURVIVE “Best Practice Guide Lines”.
- 3.16. Technician – additions to the terminology “has been assessed to work competently alone and unsupervised in accordance with relevant National Occupational Standards”.

4.2. Environmental Considerations

Additional comments have been added stating that operators need to take into consideration even the communication with employees to switching off vehicles when not required, driving smoothly and within speed limits, to changing gears at appropriate time, stopping and starting less, to help with the general improvement of usage.

5. Vehicles

A new consideration has been added for the ability of the technician to be able to exit and enter a vehicle via the front passenger door. Records of weighbridge and test certificates should be used to ensure that relevant plated weights are not exceeded. Also, the sampling by Certification Bodies and the chart for minimum annual vehicle inspections has been removed and now refer to Annex F, to give you the new requirements clearly set out for Certification and Inspection Bodies. See our comments later. Defects must be promptly recorded and rectified asap and records maintained to what action was taken.

6. Vehicle Equipment

A new requirement is that Operators must allow Certification and Inspection Bodies to carry out unannounced visits to premises and review recovery operations. There is also an added note for Inspection and Certification Bodies to publish and maintain details of companies currently holding a valid PAS 43 certificate.

Technicians have the added responsibility that deficiencies with tools and equipment have to be reported to management. Vehicle Lifting Equipment has an added note to ensure safe systems are in place when a remote control unit is used to operate a winch. This is due to the possibility of the same radio frequency being used by another vehicle in a close proximity. Also, new winches must be to the standards as previously noted and must be appropriately CE marked.

7. Personal Safety or Protective Equipment and Clothing

A note has been added regarding safe use of ear defenders where consideration should be given for their use by a third party.

9. Technicians

When checking driving licences now, we must review any elements which relate to the Driver's Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) that need to be correct for the vehicles to be driven. Also, an added note states that Management need to consider the suitability of their Technicians who could be sent to deal with vulnerable persons. They will need to have been CRB checked.

10. Standards Operating Procedures

A further note has been added drawing attention to the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Computer Misuse Act 1990.

11. Claims of Conformity

This is a completely new section of the Standard that makes it the responsibility of the Operator to ensure they are compliant in all respects of PAS 43, including the verification of those parties certificating or inspecting them.

ANNEX C – Training and Health and Safety for Vehicle Recovery Operatives and Technicians

The tables for the VR Modules have now been split to C.5 Light Recovery and C.6 Heavy Recovery highlighting the new specification of Roadside Technician covering modules 1, 2 and 3 and the new module of VR 21 Incident Manager.

ANNEX D – Customer Service

This now includes Customer Service and the Disability Rights Commission, provision and use of Transport Vehicle, statutory code of practice – Supplement to Part 3 Code of Practice, with the addition that they are referenced in your ISO 9001 procedures. See Clause 10.

ANNEX E - Carrying or Moving Children, Pets and Domestic Animals or Livestock in Road Recovery Vehicles.

The updated annex now breaks down the transportation of all of the above. Each or all have their own specific variations that have been highlighted in detail.

ANNEX F – Accredited Certification and Inspection Bodies

There is a detailed explanation covering what the requirements of Accredited Certification and Inspection Bodies have to do and the actual competence requirements needed by their assessors and inspectors. The criteria for PAS 43 only certification has now moved to 100% inspection of all recovery vehicles. Certificates will be issued annually detailing all specific vehicles seen and operated.

Copies of the new standard are now available as hardcopy or PDI download from BSI Customer Services, Tel : 0208 996 9001 or via their website bsi-global.com or e-mail: orders@bsi-global.com. The price is £49.00 + VAT.

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