

We often get asked about the various markings our glass holds, here we explain what they mean and why we need to put them there.

What does my glass carry these markings?

The standard EN 12600 concerns the impact safety of glass and exists to ensure that where humans and the glass in their buildings come into physical contact, any harm is minimised.

A key part of demonstrating compliance with this standard is the permanent marking of glass products during manufacture, and these marks remaining visible in the finished installation.

What do they mean?

Each marking and number relate to a type and classification of safety glass – BS EN 12150-1 relates to thermally toughened safety glass.

BS EN 1449-1 relates to laminated safety glass which is equally as safe, but has other useful properties such as enhanced security.

The number after the dash in each standard relates to the classification of impact test behaviour with that standard, in both cases above the product is class 1, being the highest level of performance.

When does safety glass need to be fitted?

There are critical glazing locations in which safety glass must be fitted by law. In broad terms in the domestic environment this means any glass in a door, within 300mm of a door or under 800mm anywhere else.

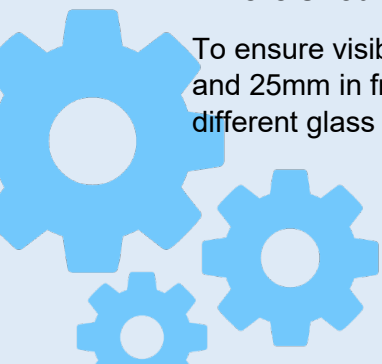
Why do the marks differ slightly?

We've seen above there are two types of safety glass used, often within the same sealed unit. These marks for technical reasons are applied in a number of ways dependent on the glass type - by laser, sandblasted or screen-printed on.

Whilst the finish or look of the mark may differ, the content is standardised under EN 12600 and always holds a reference to the manufacturer, the standard, and the classification within the standard.

Where should the marks be?

To ensure visibility when glazed, usually the mark is applied to the glass product 25mm up and 25mm in from one corner. Because the two panes of a sealed unit are nearly always different glass types made in completely different processes and can be coated, handed etc



it is not often possible to line both marks up in one corner. In all cases the standard EN 12600 prevails and it is the primary duty of the manufacturer and installer to ensure that these marks remaining visible in the finished installation.

What if there are no markings?

If there are no markings then the assumption should always be the glass is not a safety product and treated as such. Even if we know glass to have undergone the toughening process, or we can see visibly it's laminated, unless marked as such there is no compliance under the standard.

In nearly all circumstance where we are called to investigate however, sometimes due to misunderstanding, sometimes due to the glazing position, perhaps the presence of textured glass or a fainter than average sandblast, the safety markings are indeed present on closer inspection.

