

What is Safety Glass and what do the Markings Mean?

Technical
Guide

Safety glass must be permanently marked to comply with the glazing requirements of the Building Regulations Approved Document K.

Our glass holds have various markings, and we are frequently asked what they mean. Here is an explanation of what the markings mean and why we use them.

Why does safety glass carry these markings?

The European Standard EN12600 requires glass to provide resistance against impact, reducing the harm to people in and around the building if the glass is under strain.

To demonstrate compliance with EN12600, glass products are permanently marked during the manufacturing process and remain visible in the finished installation.

Why are the markings sometimes different?

There are two types of safety glass, and they can both be used in the same sealed unit. For technical reasons, the markings are applied in several ways depending on the glass type. Markings can be applied by laser, sandblasted or screen-printed.

The finish or aesthetics of a marking may differ but, the content is standardised under EN 12600. A marking always references the manufacturer, the standard, and the classification within the standard.

What if there are no markings on the glass?

If there are no visible markings on the glass, assume that it is not a glass safety product. Even if the glass has undergone the toughening process or is laminated, it is not compliant unless it holds a marking under the standard.

What do the markings 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 safe but has other properties such as enhanced security.

The number after the dash in each standard relates to the classification of impact test behaviour with that standard. Both examples are Class 1, the highest performing classification.

Where should the markings be positioned?

Ensuring visibility when glazed, the marking is usually applied to the glass product 25mm up and 25mm in from one of the corners. However, two panes of glass in a sealed unit are nearly always different glass types, made using different processes with different finishes. Therefore, it is not often possible to line both marks up in one corner. In all cases, the manufacturer and installer must ensure the markings remain visible in the finished installation to prove Standard EN12600 compliance.