



WHY?

This FACT SHEET has been created by The British Sign and Graphics Association to:

Raise Awareness:

Emphasise the importance of mechanical fixing of signs for safety, legal compliance, and accessibility.

Guide Compliance:

Share clear, concise guidance on achieving regulatory standards.

Promote Best Practices:

Highlight creative, functional solutions that balance safety with design.

Set Standards:

Establish benchmarks for safety, quality, and accessibility within the industry.

Provide Clarity:

Support industry stakeholders to align work activities with applicable regulations and end user requirements.

DISCLAIMER:

This document has been produced by the British Sign & Graphics Association (BSGA) for general guidance and advisory purposes only. It is intended to help clarify relevant compliance, governance, legislation, standards, and best practice within the sign and graphics industry.

While the content is published in good faith, it is provided without liability and is not intended to constitute or substitute legal advice. The application and interpretation of compliance, governance, legislation AND laws can vary depending on the specific circumstances. Therefore, users are strongly advised to seek appropriate professional or legal advice before acting or refraining from action based on the information contained in this document.

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Correct: May_2025
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KNOWLEDGEHUB: MECHANICAL FIXING of SIGNS COMPLIANCE



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CHAMPION
COLLABORATE
COMMUNICATE
COMMUNITY
COMPLIANCE

COMMON PITFALLS: HOW TO AVOID THEM.

Choosing the correct fixing method is critical to the safety, durability, and appearance of signage installations.

Mistakes during specification or installation can cause premature failure, property damage, or even serious injury.

- ⚠ **INADEQUATE FIXING SELECTION:**
- ⚠ **WEIGHT LOAD IGNORANCE:**
- ⚠ **NO PULL TESTING:**
- ⚠ **DIRECT FIXING TO RENDERED WALLS:**
- ⚠ **ALIGNMENT ERRORS:**
- ⚠ **SURFACE PREPARATION NEGLECT:**

MAINTENANCE CONSIDERATIONS:



Visit our website: Technical Guidance Note: MECHANICAL FIXING of SIGNS to BUILDING FASCIAS COMPLIANCE more information.

Fixing Integrity Checks:

Mechanical fixings can loosen due to wind load, vibration, or thermal movement. Regular inspections (annually or biannually) should assess bolts, anchors, and brackets for corrosion, fatigue, or displacement - especially for high-level or projecting signs.

Refer to BS 8539 for anchors in concrete or masonry.

Weathering and Corrosion:

UK weather - especially in coastal or industrial areas - can degrade fixings, cladding interfaces, and metal components. Use corrosion resistant materials during installation, and schedule routine checks for rust, staining, or surface deterioration.

BS EN ISO 9223 to assess atmospheric corrosivity where appropriate.

Illumination & Electrical Safety:

For illuminated signs, routine inspection should cover water ingress, electrical isolation, and LED or driver failure. All electrical maintenance must comply with BS 7671:2018 IET Wiring Regulations and should be carried out by a qualified electrician or competent person.

TRAINING and COMPETENCY:

Signage installers must meet recognised UK industry standards to ensure safe, compliant, and high-quality installations.

Core qualifications include the Level 3 Technical Apprenticeship in Signmaking, the NVQ Level 2 in Sign Installation (currently in development), a valid CSCS card, PASMA/IPAF certification for access equipment, BS 8539 anchor installation training, and essential health and safety qualifications, including manual handling.

Best practice recommends refresher training every five (5) years to maintain competency and align with evolving legislation and techniques.



Mechanical sign installation is an essential skill requiring precision, structural awareness, and strict adherence to health and safety standards.

This guide serves as a **practical resource** for both installers and project managers, providing clear guidance on best practices, materials, tools, and compliance with relevant British Standards.

It focuses specifically on mechanical fixing methods used to secure signage to building fascias and other fixed surfaces.

For alternative installation types - such as **adhesive fixing, tension systems, or freestanding structures** - please refer to dedicated BSGA guidance or contact the Association directly for further training and documentation.

Key British Standards and Guidance include:

BS 559: 2009: Specification for the design and construction of signs for publicity, decorative and general purposes.

Provides guidance on the design, construction, installation, and maintenance of signs, promoting safety, visibility, durability, and compliance across various environments and applications.

<https://knowledge.bsigroup.com/products/specification-for-the-design-and-construction-of-signs-for-publicity-decorative-and-general-purposes>

BS EN 1090-2:2018+A1:2024 Execution of steel structures and aluminium structures - Technical requirements for steel structures.

Specifies technical requirements for the execution of steel structures, covering fabrication, welding, assembly, and quality control.

<https://knowledge.bsigroup.com/products/execution-of-steel-structures-and-aluminium-structures-technical-requirements-for-steel-structures-2>

Visit our website: Technical Guidance Note: **MECHANICAL FIXING of SIGNS to BUILDING FASCIAS COMPLIANCE** more information.