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.

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Created: David Derbyshire: Technical_Committee_Chair
Linda_Edwards_Managing_Director

The British Sign and Graphics Association

Northgate Business Centre
Northgate
Newark
Nottinghamshire
NG24 1EZ

0845 338 3016

ask@**uksigns**.org

https://**uksigns**.org/

British Sign & Graphics Association

KNOWLEDGEHUB: MECHANICAL FIXING of SIGNS COMPLIANCE

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:**

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.

MAINTENANCE CONSIDERATIONS:

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.

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

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

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