BS 8300: Buildings Code of Practice – NEW Revision January 2018

Why has the standard been revised?

The B/559 committee responsible for creating and revising British Standards regularly review any published standards and realised the BS 8300 Standard had become outdated. In many areas it did not support the need for accessible environments for disabled people. The committee therefore decided to revise the standard using external experts with specialist knowledge of accessibility and individual requirements. Said specialists were then invited to attend the preliminary discussions to offer support and guidance to ensure that any revision made had the individual at the forefront of any subsequent decisions.

Aims of the new revision

One of the key elements to the BS 8300 revision was to guarantee inclusivity for all and create fully accessible environments. There was a clear need to take the onus away from the individual and ensure that service providers understand their responsibility to offer complete accessibility for all, the driving statement throughout the revision process being: "it is the environment that is the disabling factor, not the individual." New technologies, trends and design standards have therefore been introduced into the BS 8300 revision, to ultimately create the perfect design of an accessible and inclusive build environment.

What has changed?

The revised Standard contains updates for many areas of accessibility for both building processes and design. The complete standard has been divided to two parts: BS 8300-1 covers all external accessibility issues and BS 8300-2 covers all internal issues.

In addition to the general guidance in the main body of the standard (13.2-13.5) the Annex covers the requirement for reactive and preventative maintenance of Induction Loop systems using a provider with specialist knowledge, proactive staff testing of Induction Loop systems and knowledge of said systems to ensure staff can engage with individuals. Table D.1 gives specific guidance on where Induction Loops should be used and covers a range of examples including counter loops, integrated and large area systems. Direction is also given to microphone input and the various sound sources that can be selected for applications. The table overleaf shows part of the new Annex of where Induction Loop Systems are to be used.

How does the new revision affect me?

Whether you are an architect, tender manager, store fit out provider, retailer or designer, the new revised standard provides greater clarity on the appropriate level of provision and installation for Induction Loop Systems. **Essentially, the new revised standard of Induction Loop integration cannot be ignored in any project you may be involved with**. This includes various environments and sectors such as:

- Help and refuge points, seating & waiting areas
- Reception/check out desks, ticket offices, points of sales, checkouts
- Interview rooms, board rooms, function rooms/halls
- Places of worship
- Public sector buildings - educational, cultural, and scientific
- Sporting venues
- Cinemas, theatres & exhibition centres

Table D.1: *Examples of where Induction Loop systems are used*

Application/ location	Typical sound source	Type of loop/ assistive listening system	Appropriate level of provision
Bank counter	Staff voice [A]	Counter loop	Ideally every counter provides a loop
			If a glazed screen is present then a speech transfer system is needed in addition to the loop
Supermarket checkout	Staff voice [A]	Counter loop	Ideally every checkout provides a loop
Reception desks	Staff voice [A]	Counter loop	
Customer service tills	Staff voice [A]	Counter loop	
Retail point of sale	Staff voice [A]	Counter loop	Minimum of every other counter provides a counter loop
Check in desks	Staff voice [A]	Counter loop	All check in desks
Payment window	Staff voice [A]	Counter loop and speech transfer system	All payment windows
Ticket window	Staff voice [A]	Counter loop and speech transfer system	All ticket windows such as transport, theatre, etc.
Retail point of sale (self service)	Audio from self-service unit	Integrated loop	All units
Help point or information point (that provides audio)	Audio from help point	Integrated loop	All help points
Refuge point	Audio from refuge point	Integrated loop	All refuge points
Door entry systems (entrance panel)	Audio from door entry panel	Integrated loop	All door entry panels
Lift emergency intercom	Audio from intercom	Integrated loop	All emergency intercoms
TV listening (home)	TV	TV loop system	
TV listening (communal areas)	TV	Large area loop	
Announcements (airports, train stations)	PA announcement system	Large area loop or a loop that covers a designated area (which will require clear signage)	A designated area (zone) is identified that relates to the announcement and gives maximum coverage (attention is needed to ensure specific zoned areas are looped accordingly)
Conference rooms	Presenter's voice/ AV system	Large area loop	
Meeting rooms	Attendees' voices [A]/ AV system	Large area loop	Microphone type and coverage needs to be specified correctly
Boardroom	Attendees' voices [A]/ AV system	Large area loop	Microphone type and coverage needs to be specified correctly
School classrooms	Teacher's voice [A]/ AV system	Large area loop	Could be used in conjunction with a soundfield system
Lecture theatres	Tutor's voice [A]/ AV system	Large area loop	Could be used in conjunction with a soundfield system
Places of worship	PA system	Large area loop	Ideally the whole area of the congregation is covered, if this is unachievable a minimum of 50% is attained and clearly signed where the loop is operational
Entertainment venue	Venue sound/ AV system	Large area loop [B]	
Consultation rooms	Consultant's voice [A]	Counter loop/small area loop	Where the acoustic environment is benign, and the consultant and patient are within 2 m of each other an induction loop might be unnecessary
Communal rooms	Presenter's voice/ AV system	Large area loop [B]	Nursing, residential and care homes, day centres, community centre

[A] Via a microphone. [B] In phased array configuration.