BS EN 14972-8:2020
Incorporating corrigendum July 2022

BSI Standards Publication

Fixed firefighting systems — Water mist systems

Part 8: Test protocol for machinery in enclosures exceeding 260 m^3 for open nozzle systems

bsi.

National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of EN 14972-8:2020.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee FSH/18/5, Watermist systems.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

BSI, as a member of CEN, is obliged to publish the EN 14972 series as British Standards. However, attention is drawn to the fact that during the development of this European Standard, the UK committee voted against its approval.

At the time of publication, the design and installation standard EN 14972-1 remains unpublished, so the UK committee highlights the position that installations to that standard cannot yet be achieved.

The UK committee is of the opinion that these standards may lead to avoidably poorer outcomes in the event of fire (e.g. avoidable losses of property, injury and deaths).

Whilst properly designed, installed and maintained water mist system can be highly effective in specific applications, experience has shown that poorly implemented water mist systems have given rise to injury, fatalities and disproportionate damage to property. At this time documentary evidence is confidential due to ongoing litigation and other confidentiality considerations. However, UK experts remain available to share their experience in these regards in generic terms.

It is the opinion of the UK Committee that, in the haste to publish the documents in the EN 14972 series, many of the fundamental and technical comments and concerns submitted by the UK to the CEN organisation have not been fully evaluated and given due consideration.

As an example, the UK Committee draws users' attention to fundamental issues within prEN 14972-1 Table 1, which have not been adequately linked to the fire test protocols of the EN 14972 series. This is a significant omission as the limits of application of the fire tests and other constraints are therefore unclear.

Intended scope and clear limits of application are fundamental to the safe implementation of these standards. These were originally planned as an annex but the UK understands they have now been set aside by CEN, as a proposed future document of uncertain status. The UK Committee believes that these need to be a core part of the EN 14972 series and in the absence of this, National Annex Part 1 contains the UK requirements.

Clear exchange of data and information is essential to all those involved in assessing the suitability and performance of a water mist system. Whilst this information is normally recorded in the fire test reports and manufacturer’s design, installation, operation and maintenance manual (DIOM), experience has shown that it is often difficult for stakeholders to access all of the necessary information. In order to facilitate this essential exchange of information, templates have been created in the Manufacturer’s Declarations of Conformity (MDOCs), contained in National Annex Part 2.

UK experience has shown the importance of using critical system components that have been subjected to independent component testing