

JD/KL/NSI 007 25

12th November 2025

To: All NSI Fire Gold and Fire Silver SP203-4 approved companies and applicants

Dear Colleague,

PUBLICATION OF BS 5266-1:2025 EMERGENCY LIGHTING PART 1: EMERGENCY LIGHTING OF PREMISES – CODE OF PRACTICE

We would like to draw your attention to the publication of BS 5266-1:2025 which came into effect on 31st October 2025 and supersedes BS 5266-1:2016 which is now withdrawn.

This is a full revision of the standard with the principal change being the expansion of the scope of the standard to cover local area lighting and standby lighting, as well as emergency escape lighting.

This update also reflects changes in related European standards (i.e. EN 1838 and EN 50172).

Implementation timescale for approved and applicant companies

Existing NSI approved companies with Fire Gold or Fire Silver approval to the BAFE SP203-4 scheme will have until 30th April 2026 to transition to BS 5266-1:2025. During the transition period, any non-conformances found during NSI audits against the revised standard will be raised as an Audit Note. Any non-conformances found after the transition period will be raised as formal non-conformance reports (Major or Minor non-conformance reports).

For applications received prior to 31st October 2025, applicant companies applying for NSI Fire Gold or Fire Silver approval to the BAFE SP203-4 scheme will be subject to the transition arrangements, as detailed above, for existing companies.

For new applicants and existing approved companies seeking an extension to their existing scope to include SP203-4, applications received from 1st November 2025 for approval to the BAFE SP203-4 scheme will be audited against the revised standard and any non-conformances found will be raised as formal non-conformance reports (Major or Minor non-conformance reports).

Systems designed to BS 5266-1:2016

Where a company has designed a system to the recommendations of BS 5266-1:2016 but it has not yet been installed and/or commissioned, the design certificate shall refer to BS 5255-1:2016.

Where the installation and/or commissioning of a system designed to BS 5266-1:2016 has not commenced at the time of publication of BS 5266-1:2025, the installation and/or commissioning process shall be in accordance with the recommendations of BS 5266-1:2025.

Where installation/commissioning is carried out in accordance with the recommendations of BS 5266-1:2025, the applicable installation/commissioning/acceptance certificates shall refer to BS 5266-1:2025.

How do I obtain a copy of BS 5266-1:2025?

A copy of BS 5266-1:2025 can be purchased directly from BSI or from NSI for a discounted rate (please contact accounts@nsi.org.uk). Alternatively, it will be accessible through the NSI Standards on Subscription service as soon as we receive the authorised digital version from BSI. Please be aware that BSI's copyright protection measures can sometimes add a short delay to the release timeline.

Questions or queries?

If you have any questions or queries regarding the new standard, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



John Davidson
Technical Services Manager
Email: john.davidson@nsi.org.uk