

BS 873 Part 8 – Designation 1

REFERENCE NOTE – TRAFFIC CONES & CYLINDERS

What does it refer to?

BS 873-8:1985 was a British Standard covering road traffic cones and traffic cylinders. It specified requirements including categories, designations, colour, construction, dimensions, stability, mechanical performance and marking.

The wording sometimes encountered as “**BS 873 Part 8 Design 1**” is more accurately understood as a reference to **Designation 1**, rather than a particular physical product drawing called “Design 1”.

What is Designation 1?

Designation 1 relates to the **photometric performance of the retro-reflective portions** used on the traffic cone or traffic cylinder. Contemporary highway specifications referencing BS 873 Part 8 describe Designation 1 as requiring the retro-reflective portions to comply with the relevant photometric requirements of BS 873 Part 6.

What BS 873 Part 8 covered

Area	Reference meaning
Product type	Portable traffic cones and traffic cylinders
Categories	The standard defined traffic cone categories
Designation	Photometric performance designation for retro-reflective portions
Colour / visibility	Requirements for colour and retro-reflective areas
Physical performance	Requirements and tests including stability, impact, drop, bending and fatigue as applicable
Marking	Identification and standard/category/designation marking requirements

Current status

BS 873-8:1985 is withdrawn/superseded. It was replaced by the European standard for portable deformable warning devices and delineators, including **BS EN 13422**. Therefore, a reference to BS 873 Part 8 should normally be treated as a **legacy specification** unless a contract, drawing or customer requirement specifically calls for it.

Important reference point

If a customer or historic specification asks for “**BS 873 Part 8 Design 1**”, it is sensible to confirm whether they mean **BS 873-8:1985, Designation 1 retro-reflective performance**. The phrase by itself does not provide all dimensions or construction details for a particular post, cone or cylinder.

Use of this sheet

This document is an explanatory reference only. It is not a copy of the British Standard, a certificate of conformity, a product approval, or a substitute for the full applicable standard/specification. Where compliance is contractually required, the exact product, category, designation and current applicable standard should be verified.