

**Withdrawal of NHSS14 – National Highways Sector Scheme**  
**for the Quality Management of Production of Asphalt Mixes**

**02 February 2017**

**To whom it may concern, effective immediately**

It has been decided to withdraw the National Highways Sector Scheme No. 14 relating to Quality Management of Production of Asphalt Mixes.

This decision follows the enactment of the Construction Products Regulation (in July 2013) and implementation of compulsory CE Marking under that Regulation for asphalt products to the EN13108 series of standards, and in particular EN13108 Part 21 for Factory Production Control. The parallel and duplicate operation of the Sector Scheme and its requirements may be considered a barrier to trade.

A number of practical issues relating to withdrawal of the Scheme remain, and should be addressed by the relevant parties at the earliest opportunity.

- The Specification for Highways Works (SHW) Series 100 (by reference to Appendix A) dated May 2014 notes that the Scheme is currently “non-mandatory”, which should now be considered unnecessary and all references to the Scheme withdrawn.
- The Specification for Highways Works Series 900 (several clauses) dated November 2008 however notes that the Scheme is compulsory, in addition to voluntary CE Marking. The latter requirement only (compulsory CE Marking from July 2013) is appropriate and all references to the Scheme need to be withdrawn.
- The Advisory Committee for NHSS14 identified a limited number of “legacy items” from the Scheme and these have now been adopted into enabling documents, such as the National Guidance Document for implementation of the EN13108 series in the UK - BSI Published Document PD 6691:2015+A1:2016.
- Requirements for producers to be registered to the withdrawn Scheme NHSS14 in contract documents must be superseded by the requirement for CE Marking and guidance in PD6691. CE Marking may be complemented by the operation of a compatible ISO9001 Quality Management System.

Accurate timelines for revision and publication of the revised SHW 900 series have not been confirmed, but are targeted for completion during 2017.

Existing Certificates of Registration to the Scheme will remain valid until 01 July 2017 or the date of their expiry, whichever is later. Certification Bodies will not offer new or re-registration to Sector Scheme 14 beyond 01 July 2017.

Producers are required to employ Notified Bodies to provide certification for CE Marking. CE Marking may be complemented by ISO9001 Quality Management Systems registration.

*NHSS14 has been in operation in the UK since 1998. The requirements of the Scheme have largely been adopted into the European Standard for Factory Production Control and its withdrawal is a recognition of its successful implementation at both a national and international level under the new Regulatory system (the Construction Products Regulation).*