



**Hibiscus Plc**  
THE PRINTING PLANT

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## **BS5609: 1986 Specification**

### Section One - General

This British Standard specifies requirements for printed pressure-sensitive, adhesive-coated labels suitable for use under marine conditions. It describes methods for the determination of resistance to marine immersion, weathering, temperature cycling and abrasion and for the determination of legibility and print key effectiveness. The standard is subdivided as follows:-

### **Section Two – Label Base Material**

The label base material and adhesive is subjected to a marine performance type test with exposure to marine conditions for at least 3 months. Laboratory performance type tests are carried out, covering the following areas:-

#### Dimensional Stability

**Adhesion** - After 48 hours / After artificial weathering / After temperature cycling

#### Colour Fastness

**Fitness for use** - Label base material shall be capable of complying with the above for 2 years

### **Section Three – Printed Labels**

**Printed labels shall be manufactured from label base materials complying with section two.**

**Dimensions** – Labels shall have a minimum size of 50mm in any direction.

**Print key effectiveness** – Ink shall not be removed from more than 5% of the printed area of each colour.

**Abrasion resistance** – The colour shall remain recognisable as the original hue and any text/symbol shall remain legible and identifiable.

**Permanence of print** – Colour fastness and residual contrast.

**Fitness for use** – Printed labels shall be capable of complying with the requirements for a period of not less than 12 months from date of delivery.

### **Section Four – Guidance to shippers and users**

The end user should ensure the following points:-

#### Compatibility of label and substrate

**Substrate surface finish** – The degree of adhesion is dependent on the finish of the substrate, i.e. rough surfaces, contaminated surfaces will reduce the effectiveness of the adhesive.

**Application of labels** – Labels should not be applied under cold conditions. Ripples/bulges and air-pockets should be avoided. Use a squeegee to obtain maximum contact.



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