

Setting the Standards
SERVING THE INDUSTRY
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NEWS

Camden - 'an accident waiting to happen'

The family of Jacob Marx, a 27-year-old New Zealand man, who died when a 35ft sign, weighing nearly a third of a tonne, fell on him in Camden, London in January 2013, have expressed their disappointment by "an apparent lack of regulation, structured training or even guidance in the sign fixing industry" following the inquest into Mr Marx's death.

"It has become apparent during the course of the inquest that there were significant failings surrounding the William Hill sign and we call on those authorities with the ability to do so to institute measures to try to prevent such a tragedy every occurring again," their statement said.

The inquest was told by a health and safety expert that, due to a series of errors, the sign was an 'accident waiting to happen'.

The illuminated fascia sign over a William Hill betting shop, was installed in 2006 as part of a national refurbishment programme and replaced an earlier, lighter sign.

The jury heard from representatives from William Hill, their main contractor, from the sign company that manufactured and installed the sign, and from the company that was retained to carry out sign maintenance.

According to the lawyer representing Mr Marx's family there were a number of attempts by the parties to pass blame on to each other. In the end the jury pointed the finger at significant failings by William Hill and their main contractor, Acean Builders (now in liquidation), because 'overall there was a lack of defined responsibilities (and) adequate checklists.'

David Catanach, Director of the BSGA, said that the Association is in complete agreement with the family's sentiments. "Everyone involved in the sign process – this Association, legislators, sign makers, maintenance contractors and sign buyers – must do everything possible to ensure the safety of the public.

"The requirements are, in fact, set out in three separate sets of legislation – Health & Safety, Building Regulations and Planning Law. If everyone involved met their legal requirements in full, there should never be a problem," he said.

"This is why we have published guidance notes for our members on the obligations of sign makers and sign buyers which detail what UK and European standards must be met, cover the service life and warranty of a sign and explain what the responsibilities of the sign maker and sign buyer are in terms of sign maintenance, inspection and repair."



He added: "Passing the blame seems to be the default mode of far too many in the industry. It would be much better if everyone worked with us towards creating an environment where this type of tragedy could not happen and sign manufacturers and installers understand and fulfil their responsibilities in a professional, qualified and competent manner."

Blackpool tragedy

Yet another tragedy involving a sign occurred in January this year.

A 68-year old woman died when a storefront sign fell on her in Blackpool.

"Our condolences go to the woman's family," said David Catanach.

The accident is currently under investigation by the police and other authorities and we will report on it when information is available.

Big plans for 2015 BSGA Awards

Following the success of the inaugural British Sign Awards held in Birmingham in October, the BSGA has announced a new venue for the 2015 event. It will take place at the East Midlands Conference Centre in Nottingham on Tuesday, 13th October.

"Our first awards were an outstanding success," said David Catanach, BSGA Director. "They clearly demonstrated the need for an awards scheme which celebrates the myriad skills of sign makers and brings the whole industry together.

"However, we want this year's event to be even bigger and better and EMCC, which is located at University Park in Nottingham, is a purpose-built venue that offers

fabulous facilities to host the awards.

"We organised the first awards as a daytime event and, despite the doubts of some, it worked really well. The concept kept the costs and time needed to be involved down for all and, as one sponsor commented, the event fitted seamlessly into the working week rather than being a major interruption to it.

"So we are retaining the format this year and the awards will be presented following a gala luncheon."

"Many of the sponsors who were involved in the first awards have indicated they will continue to support the event and we



will publish all the details once they are finalised," said David.

The other news is that Bob 'The Cat' Bevan who proved so popular at the first awards, will host the 2015 event.

The BSGA and its team is currently working on finalising the award categories and entry criteria for 2015. Information on all the awards how to enter is available on the awards website at www.britishsignawards.org

SIGN 2000 LEADS THE WAY

First member to be accredited to BS EN 1090-1



Our congratulations to Sign 2000, the first BSGA member to achieve accreditation to BS EN 1090-1:2009+A1:2011-Execution of steel structures, which enables them to meet the new mandatory directive for CE Marking & Compliance within the EU Construction Products Regulation (CPR).

Under CPR all companies in the EU that supply structural steel components, including structural steel signs, totems and flag mounted signs, must be certified to BS EN 1090-1 and must implement CE Marking of their products.

Some elements of CPR came into force in 2011 to build on the European Construction Products directive which had the aim of harmonising the safety performance of construction products across the EU and apply to any products placed on the market, whether manufactured in the EU or

imported. The CPR defines six principles for all such products:

- Mechanical resistance and stability
- Safety in case of fire
- Hygiene, health and the environment
- Safety in use
- Protection against noise
- Energy economy and heat retention

In 2013 it became mandatory under CPR for manufacturers to draw up a declaration of performance and apply CE markings to any construction product covered by a harmonised standard and from July 2014 welded steel structures that are subject to a load had to comply with CPR and carry CE Marking.

From July 2014, any 'series' manufactured structural metal components or kits to which a harmonised European Standard applies, must comply with the CPR and CE marking requirements. In the case of structural metalwork the standard that applies is BS EN 1090-1, and no company in the UK (or in the EU) should supply any product unless it conforms to the standard and carries a legitimate CE mark.

Enforcement of the regulations lies with Trading Standards and they have the power to stop a business from trading and force withdrawal/recall of a product from market until the company has shown that it complies with the regulations.

To meet the requirements of CPR and gain accreditation, companies must meet the following main criteria:

- Factory production control on the basis of permanent, documented internal control of production in accordance with the relevant technical specifications
- Internal inspection of the manufacturing plant and factory production control
- Continuous surveillance, assessment and evaluation of factory production control
- Determination of product type on the basis of type testing, type calculations, tabulated values or descriptive documentation of the product
- Audit testing of samples taken before placing product on the market

Sayer Medal recognises outstanding contribution

The Sayer Medal, the highest award in the gift of the BSGA, was presented to Mike Hall, Chairman of the BSGA Technical Committee, at the Villa Park Awards ceremony at the end of last year.

Awarded by unanimous decision of the BSGA Council, the award goes some way towards recognising the outstanding contribution Mike has made to the BSGA and to the whole of the UK sign industry over many years.

"The Association relies heavily on the expertise of unpaid volunteers and Mike Hall has been an outstanding contributor, serving as a member of the BSGA Technical Committee for many years and then taking over as its Chairman," said

David Dyke, BSGA President. "In addition to his role in the BSGA, he has also given time to represent the interests of the UK in Europe, serving on the Technical Working Group of the European Sign Federation.

"The BSGA's technical guidelines cover every facet of the industry and must be kept up to date. A huge amount of work goes into them, especially in keeping them in tune with new regulations.

"Dealing with regulatory bodies, including the dreaded EU, isn't easy. Mike has been unstinting in giving his time to make sure that BSGA members have access to the right information and advice."

"He richly deserves the Sayer Medal."



Mike Hall (left) with David Dyke.

NEW MEMBERS

Epson UK

We are delighted to welcome EPSON as an associate member of the BSGA.



"Epson is one of the world's biggest manufacturers of imaging equipment and associated products and services and enjoys an excellent reputation as an innovation leader," said David Catanach, BSGA Director. "Their decision to join the BSGA demonstrates the importance of the sign industry to them in the UK and their willingness to support the industry."

In addition to joining the association, Epson also sponsored the Innovation Award at the first BSGA – organised British Sign Awards and have indicated that they will continue to support the awards being staged this year.

"Epson is an iconic name and their involvement with the BSGA and the awards gives a tremendous boost to both the association and our event," added David.

www.epson.co.uk

Associate Membership of the BSGA is open to any business that manufactures or supplies components, materials, equipment or services to the sign industry (but does not supply signs or related services direct to consumers). Membership brings suppliers within the BSGA 'family'; creates important marketing and networking opportunities and enables suppliers to support the vital work the BSGA does on behalf of the whole industry. For details on how to become an Associate Member visit our website at www.bsga.co.uk or call us on 0845 338 3016

Astra Signs

Manchester-based Astra Signs, one of the country's largest and most experienced sign makers, has joined the BSGA.



Formed in 1984, the company now offers a national and international turnkey sign making service covering design, manufacture, installation and maintenance of signs for clients across all market sectors including leisure, retail, property and architecture. They also offer total solutions for large bespoke exhibition stands as well as off-the-shelf pop-up displays and stands.

Based in a purpose-built facility in Manchester, Astra Signs combines traditional manufacturing techniques with some of the best hi-tech machinery in the world to produce high quality signs, sign systems and associated products.

"Astra Signs has recognised that the BSGA has an important role to play in the sign industry and we are pleased to welcome them as a member," said David Catanach.

www.astrasigns.com

Full details on why sign companies should join the BSGA and how to join can be found on our website at www.bsga.co.uk

PLANNING PROTESTS

The BSGA and its advisors continue to monitor proposed Local Plans prepared by local authorities and to lodge objections where the plans are felt to be detrimental to the sign industry.

"Every local authority in the UK is required, within certain parameters, to set out its own rules for the development of its area," explained David Catanach, BSGA Director. "The BSGA has undertaken to monitor all Local Plans and to protest where the contents either over-step what is legal or are considered unreasonable.

"Without this work our members and the sign industry at large could face a raft of time-consuming and expensive planning appeals and hearings."

Since the publication of the last newsletter the BSGA has lodged objections to proposals in the Local Plans produced by Southwark Borough Council, Swale Borough Council, Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council, Dartford Borough Council, Newport County Council, Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council, the Corporation of London and Thanet District Council.

Underground services – avoiding the pitfalls

Installation of any sign involving groundwork obviously means that the existence of any underground utilities must be checked before work commences – and the methods used include the use of cable avoidance tools (CATs) and signal generators.

However, one BSGA member recently met a problem when about to install a post and panel system on a building site. The site manager insisted on seeing the qualifications of the installers who were to use the CAT & Signal Generator.

Under CDM (Construction Design and Management) regulations site managers have a duty to ensure site safety, and proof of the competence of every operative on site would form part of the site safety plan. "Asking for a 'ticket' for operation of equipment is not unreasonable under the circumstances," said David Catanach, BSGA Director.

To help members avoid this potential pitfall, the BSGA has published a Guidance Note - "Avoiding underground services when installing signs" – which can be downloaded from the members' area of the website.

RENEWAL REMINDER

Members are politely reminded that, when renewing their membership, they must provide a signed declaration of turnover.

The BSGA self-certificates for VAT purposes and we need the signed declarations to satisfy HMRC. So far as they are concerned, an unsigned declaration is a meaningless piece of paper.

Thank you for your understanding and assistance.

Creating Business Connections

24 - 26 MARCH 2015, HALLS 17 & 18, NEC, BIRMINGHAM

sign&digital UK

THE UK'S PREMIER SIGN MAKING, DISPLAY SOLUTIONS AND DIGITAL PRINTING EVENT

Sign & Digital UK will return to the NEC Birmingham from 24 to 26 March, and will feature over 180 of the industry's leading suppliers.

This year's show, which is already 20% bigger than in 2014, will focus on the new theme, Creating Business Connections which will be explored through live product demonstrations, exclusive show offers, practical workshops, highlighted trails and the seminar programme.

The exhibitor line-up will be complemented by an extensive, free-to-attend seminar programme, featuring four theatres and workshops packed with practical advice and tips from experts from across the sign making and digital printing supply chain.

Following its popularity in 2014, the Business Theatre will return with sessions from the BSGA on the standards and regulations that sign companies must adhere to in order to meet their legal requirements. Full seminar timetables

for all theatres can be found online www.signanddigitaluk.com/seminars.

2015 will welcome a range of companies of various sizes, ranging from small boutique businesses, through to leading industry brands. Amongst this year's exhibitors are Signwaves, Applelec, Mida Sign Services, Biesse, Complete CNC Solutions, Nova Chrome, The Magic Touch, Canon UK, Colourgen/ Mutoh, Roland DG UK, Fujifilm, Hewlett-Packard, Hybrid Services/Mimaki, Amaya, YES Ltd, Resolute DTG, J&B Sewing, Russell & Chapple, Ultraflex Europe, Esko, Ultima Displays, William Smith, MTEX, Agfa Graphics, Paperlinx, Graftyp, Art Systems, Inktec/Jetrix, Atech, i-Sub, Perfect Colours, PrintMax, AG CAD, Antalis, and CMYUK Digital.

To find out more about the new technology, innovative products and services on show



at Sign & Digital UK visit the website: www.signanddigitaluk.com. To find out about exhibiting, contact the show team on +44 (0) 1342 332000 or email signanddigitaluk@fav-house.com.

STANDARDS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND PERSONAL LIABILITIES

BSGA Seminars at Sign&Digital UK

The BSGA will be presenting a series of business seminars at this year's Sign&Digital UK exhibition at the NEC from March 24-26.

"Standards and regulations covering the sign industry are changing and failure to meet the new standards could, in some instances, result in sign makers facing criminal proceedings and possible custodial sentences," said David Catanach, BSGA Director. "The seminars are designed to give everyone with an interest in signs the heads-up on what the latest requirements are."

Two seminars, which will take place on the Tuesday and Thursday (am and pm) and on the Wednesday (am), are designed to provide everyone with an interest in signs – whether a manufacturer, installer or sign buyer – with the latest information on European and UK standards for the fabrication and installation of signs together with an explanation of what responsibilities individual parties have for ongoing sign maintenance.

A third special seminar, which should be of particular interest to everyone who owns or runs a sign business, will be held on the Wednesday morning (March 25).

The BSGA has arranged for Martin Moy, a health and safety expert to provide an overview of the subject and, amongst other matters, he will be explaining what personal liabilities business owners and directors face.

The talk will also detail proposed court sentencing changes, give the heads-up on what areas the Health and Safety Executive are focussing on, and explain the importance of preparing Risk Assessments - and getting them right.

"This seminar provides an opportunity for sign businesses to gain a valuable insight into H&S requirements," said David Catanach.

"Equally, an understanding the new Eurocodes and their relationship with BS 559 (the UK standard for the design of signs) and UK Building Regulations is vital for any sign business, as is knowledge of what rules govern the maintenance of signs. Our other seminars will arm visitors with the knowledge they need to meet their legal obligations."

