

Asset Marking Systems

BACKGROUND

For a number of years both the Police and Government have promoted visible marking of property, the most basic form of which is a postcode. Although effective as a basic deterrent, traceability and proof of ownership through postcodes is limited since it does not cater for the movement of the owner (change of address), rented products or sale of products. As a result the need was identified for the secure marking of items which unique codes that can identify the item and ownership via secure databases which are fully transferable.

This work, undertaken with the backing of the Police, Government and Insurers, resulted in the publication of LPS1225 *Specification for testing and classifying asset marking systems*.

AIM OF STANDARD

LPS 1225 specifies requirements for the composition and performance of an asset marking system such that, when used according to the manufacturer's instructions, the asset marking device may:

1. Enable the marked asset to be traced to the legal owner via a secure database register linked to the marking system employed.
2. Act as a theft deterrent in the first instance by virtue of known existence.

CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

The two-part classification designation indicates the resistance of the product to eradication of ownership traceability and resistance to complete removal of marking without leaving evidence of previous existence. This gives the end-user the option of selecting a product to suit the required application. Complete removal of the marking and restoration of the asset

gives maximum resale value to the stolen asset, however the standard does not take into account replication or replacement of components as part of asset restoration.

The overall classification designation achieved is given by two numerals separated by a plus sign. The first numeral represents the resistance rating to erasure of traceability and the second numeral to complete removal/asset restoration.

The two classifications are both on a scale of 1 to 8. Classification '1' performance relates to that which should be expected as a minimum for marking devices used in the retail trade and other public areas equipped with CCTV and security staff. Classification '8' is aimed at marking devices applied to assets that have a high value and this will be the subject of a more determined level of effort by the criminal in order to prevent traceability or completely remove the mark.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

All approved marking devices are marked themselves with a unique asset identification code. The LPCB certification mark and reference numbers relating to the marking device and database, and the telephone number of the database will also be marked on the marking device, or where this is not viable, on separate warning labels which are supplied with the marking device.

For further information please contact:-

LPCB
Garston, Watford, Hertfordshire WD25 9XX
Tel: +44(0)1923 664100
Fax: +44(0)1923 664994
Email: enquiries@brecertification.co.uk
www.brecertification.co.uk