



Notification Number: 1997/696/UK

## Guidance on the use of tactile paving surfaces

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### Message

MINISTERE DE L'INDUSTRIE ET DE LA RECHERCHE  
ATT. M. SERRIS

INSTITUT BELGE DE NORMALISATION,  
ATT. M. CROON

SERVICE DE L'ENERGIE DE L'ETAT, LUXEMBOURG  
ATT. M. J.P. HOFFMANN

MINISTERE DE L'INDUSTRIE  
ATT. M. CAVANNA

DEPT. OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, QUALITY AND EDUCATION DIVISION,  
ATT. MRS. B. O'GRADY

GOVERNMENT SERVICE OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, NSAI  
ATT. MR. J. NULTY

MINISTERIE VAN ECONOMISCHE ZAKEN, (DEPT OR),  
ATT. MR. VAN DER HEIDE

ERHVERVSFREMME STYRELSEN  
INDUSTRIMINISTERIET  
ATT. MR. KELD DYBKJAER

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY  
ATT. MR. Z.P. MAVROUKAS

HELLINIKOS ORG. TYPOPISOES  
ATT. MR. MELAGRAKIS

BUNDESMINISTERIUM FUER WIRTSCHAFT (BMW)  
ATT. DR. WINKEL

BUNDESMINISTERIUM FUER WIRTSCHAFTLICHE ANGELEGENHEITEN  
ATT. ABT I/A/4 FRAU GREGORICH / FRAU HASLINGER-FENZEL

MIN PARA RELACIONES CON LA COMUNIDA



ATT M. LUIS ANTONIO RICO URIOS

INSTITUTO PORTUGUES DA QUALIDADE  
ATT MR. CANDIDO DOS SANTOS, PORTUGAL

KOMMERSKOLLEGIUM  
ATT. MS. KERSTIN CARLSSON

MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY  
ATT. MS. NIEMINEN

DGS INTERNATIONAL BELGIUM

REP PERMANENTE ROYAUME UNI

REP PERMANENTE IRLANDE

REP PERMANENTE GRECE

EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY

EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION  
ATT. MS. BAKKE-D'ALOYA

TELEX 001

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION - SG (97) D/52598  
DIRECTIVES 83/189/EEC, 88/182/EEC AND 94/10/EC

NOTIFIKATION - NOTIFIZIERUNG - NOTIFICATION - NOTIFICACION  
NOTIFICATION - NOTIFICA - KENNISGEVING - NOTIFICACAO - ILMOITUS  
ANMÄLAN : 97/0696/UK.

FRISTERNE INDLEDES IKKE -KEIN FRISTBEGINN - DOES NOT OPEN THE  
DELAYS - NO ABRE EL PLAZO - N'OUVRE PAS DE DELAIS - NON FA  
DECORRERE LA MORA - GEEN TERMIJNBEGIN - NAO INICIA O PRAZO  
MÄÄRÄAIKA EI ALA TÄSTÄ - INLEDER INGEN FRIST.

- 3B1 : 9702598.EN

**1. Structured Information Line**

TLX 001 IND- 97 0696 UK- EN ----- 970905 --- ---

**2. Member State**

United Kingdom

**3. Department Responsible**

Department of Trade and Industry : Standards and Technical  
Regulations Directorate



### 3. Originating Department

Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions

### 4. Notification Number

97/0696/UK

### 5. Title

Guidance on the use of tactile paving surfaces

### 6. Products Concerned

Footway paving surfaces. No individual product. Surfaces can be produced in any material suitable for footway paving.

Nothing in this document should be read as discouraging the use of surfacing products from other States of the EEA, where those products provide equivalent levels of safety, recognition of tactile patterns and differentiation between tactile patterns.

### 7. Notification Under Another Act

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### 8. Main Content

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide local authorities with advice on the use of a range of tactile surfaces to provide guidance and warning to visually impaired pedestrians. The tactile surfaces have been developed over a number of years through an extensive research programme.

The guidelines include revised advice on the treatment for pedestrian crossing points which will replace Disability Unit Circular 1/91, The Use of Dropped Kerbs and Tactile Paving at Pedestrian Crossing Points, which was notified in 1991 under 83/189/EEC.

The use of these guidelines is voluntary but its contents are commended to local authorities and others involved in the planning and development of pedestrian areas.

The UK will fulfil its obligations under Article 12 of Directive 83/189/EEC (as amended) when these guidelines are officially published.

### 9. Brief Statement of Grounds

The guidelines are considered necessary for a number of reasons; first, to ensure the safety of visually impaired pedestrians by providing effective and recognisable tactile surfaces. They are also required to ensure that the layout of the tactile paving strikes a balance between the needs of visually impaired people and those with walking difficulties who may find the surfaces uncomfortable. Finally, the



guidelines will ensure that local authorities achieve value for money from these surfaces by avoiding extensive areas of unnecessary tactile paving.

**10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts**

i. Notified draft, dated August 1997 - Guidance on the Use of Tactile Paving Surfaces. To be issued jointly by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions and the Scottish Office.

ii. Disability Unit Circular 1/91, The Use of Dropped Kerbs and Tactile Paving at Pedestrian Crossing Points (to be replaced by the new guidance). (Notification No 91/0314/UK. Definitive text enclosed)

**11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure**

No

**12. Grounds for the Emergency**

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**13. Confidentiality**

No

**14. Fiscal measures**

No

C. TROJAN  
COMEUR  
NNNN