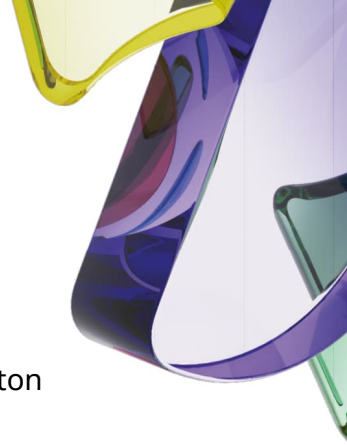




Your partner  
in progress



## Mr Henry Chiles

Assistant Coroner for the coroner area of Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton

BY EMAIL

**10 January 2025**

Dear Sir,

### **Emily Jane Lewis: Prevention of future deaths report**

#### **Introduction**

1. We write in response to your regulation 28 report arising out of the death of Emily Jane Lewis ("**the Report**"). BSI would like at the outset to express its deepest sympathy and condolences for the family of Miss Lewis.
2. We are responding in particular to No.5 (Coroner's Concerns) Item c in the Report:

*"c. Whether the existing BS EN ISO 11591 needs revision (or supplementing) to take into account the effect on forward visibility of passengers about RIB craft and whether any practicable retrospective steps can be identified to improve forward visibility on RIB craft."*

#### **BSI's role**

3. BSI's role as the National Standards Body is to facilitate expert committees to achieve consensus on industry standards and best practice and to act as the publisher of standards.
4. BSI itself does not interpret standards, nor does it retain in-house expertise on the subject matter of standards. Further, BSI is not a regulatory body and is therefore unable to advise



on regulatory matters, which are a matter for HM Government. Further information about BSI's role as the National Standards Body is given in the Appendix below.

## Background

5. Each individual standard is the responsibility of one technical committee. It is the committee who is responsible for the technical content of the standard, not BSI. In this case the relevant standard (BS EN ISO 11591) is an international standard, developed by an international committee managed by the International Organization for Standardization ("ISO") to which BSI contributes through a local (British) 'mirror committee'. Such mirror committees consist primarily of experts who are independent of BSI, and who are often nominated by trade associations, professional bodies, research/scientific institutions, government or other entities. They have an independent chair and BSI provides a committee manager and other support including an editorial project manager for national standards.
6. Draft international standards go through public consultation in all participating member countries including the UK, and the decision to publish is achieved through voting by the various committees.
7. The international committee responsible for BS EN ISO 11591 is known as ISO/TC 188. The responsible UK committee in this instance is known as GME/33 - Small craft. Its scope is:

"Under the direction of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee, is responsible for the UK input to ISO/TC 188, CEN/TC 464 and CEN (CEN/SS T01: Shipbuilding & maritime structures) under the Recreational Craft Directive (94/25/EC, 2003/44/EC) and British standards relating to small craft"

(see <https://standardsdevelopment.bsigroup.com/committees/50000770>).

## Committee's Response

8. In order to assist the Coroner, BSI has referred the Report to GME/33. The committee has explained:

- a) BS EN ISO 11591 has recently been amended to improve the assessment for vertical field of vision following a request from the Norwegian Maritime Authorities. That amendment (ISO 11591 Amd 1 2023) includes a new requirement:

*4.2.2.3 Annex A sets the procedure and methods to determine the level reference line and to verify the field of vision in the vertical field for power-driven craft with steering wheel or equivalent fixed installed direct control, which shall be followed.*

- b) In the earlier version of the standard, the obligation to ensure sufficient field of vision did include the requirement:

*A forward field of vision shall be provided directly in front of the operator's eye position throughout the vertical field of vision and extending to at least 15° on either side of a line forward from the eye position (see Figure 1) to the obstructed vision distance as specified in 4.2.2. This may be achieved with normal movement of the operator's head while maintaining control of the craft.*

- c) The amendment was intended to incorporate a requirement for the effect of the full loading of persons to be included in the evaluation of the operator's field of vision with the craft at its maximum running trim angle value to ensure that the actual operational forward visibility is adequate and compliant with the standard.



9. The committee asks the coroner:

a) Whether the amendment already published meets the recommendation as set out by the MAIB in this case?

b) Alternatively, does the Coroner or MAIB consider that there is a need for an additional amendment aimed at ensuring temporary obstructions (passengers for example) are more clearly identified as a restriction to vision and used within the calculations? Given the existing text it could be considered that they are already, but it is not as clear as it may be able to be.

10. If the answer to paragraph 9 (b) is **yes**, GME/33 could propose an amendment to the ISO TC188 chair and raise it at the next plenary meeting of ISO TC188, scheduled for May 2025.

11. The committee also believes that it would be useful to talk to the investigator to clearly understand the objectives of any amendment proposal. Therefore, BSI on behalf of the committee asks the Coroner whether there would be any objection to it contacting the investigator of this particular accident to understand further the proposed amendment to the standard.

12. We look forward to your response accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

Head of Governance & Risk, Knowledge Solutions

[Redacted name]

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## Appendix: The role of BSI as the National Standards Body

1. For completeness, BSI sets out below information regarding its role as the National Standards Body (**NSB**).

### The role of the British Standards Institution

2. BSI's role as the NSB is established by Royal Charter. BSI has several governing documents (available online):
  - a. BSI's Royal Charter and Bye-laws 1981;
  - b. A Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) of 16 September 2024 between the United Kingdom government and BSI in respect of BSI's activities as the United Kingdom's NSB;
  - c. BS 0: 2021 'A standard for standards – Principles of standardization' (**BS 0**)
3. Article 1.2 of the MoU provides that BSI's role as the NSB includes:
  - a) the management, co-ordination and understanding of British Standards and BSI standardisation products;
  - b) participation by BSI in European and international standards bodies, and other international activity undertaken in the interests of BSI as the United Kingdom's NSB;
  - c) publication, promotion, marketing, distribution and information activities concerned with British Standards, BSI's other standardisation products, and standardisation generally;
  - d) support any corporate infrastructure activities intended, wholly or in part, to enable paragraph 12(a) to (c) above.

The Director-General, Standards has the primary responsibility for the activities set out above. BSI's present Director-General, Standards is Dr Scott Steedman.

4. BSI develops and distributes standards in response to the needs of UK stakeholders, which include UK Government and business. Standards are technical documents representing good industry practice. They are voluntary documents drafted by independent experts, as distinct from legislation or regulation from government.
5. BSI is a non-profit distributing organisation. In addition to revenue generated from membership and the sales of standards, BSI also receives some funding from Government to support the development of standards, contribute to membership of international standards organisations and to encourage stakeholder participation in standardization.
6. BSI's standards development process requires open and full consultation with stakeholders to build consensus-based outcomes. This gives standards the legitimacy and degree of market acceptance to be used for public policy purposes.

### **Interpretation of Standards**

7. BSI does not provide its own interpretation of standards. Paragraph 4.3.2 of BS 0 provides:

#### *4.3.2 Interpretation*

*Responsibility for interpreting a standard rests with its user, informed where necessary by appropriate expert advice. Ultimately, the only body with the power to give a definitive interpretation is a court of law.*

*To avoid undermining the basis for common expectations set out in 4.1.1, BSI does not offer individual interpretations of standards.*

*However, any ambiguities, inconsistencies or possible errors notified to BSI will be referred for consideration by the committee responsible for the standard, as will any proposals for changes or improvements. These notifications are actively encouraged as a contribution to the maintenance of a document (see also 6.2.1).*



8. Where appropriate, BSI will refer questions of interpretation to the relevant committee experts, who might respond in their individual or collective capacity, though it should be noted that any such response does not carry the imprimatur of BSI nor would it have any authoritative status at law. As noted in BS 0, only a court of record has the authority to issue a definitive interpretation of a standard.