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What is ISO PAS 17712?



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What is ISO PAS 17712?

The International Standards Organisation (ISO) permits its technical committees to develop Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) as, in effect, a kind of interim International Standard. PAS is faster to approve than a formal standard, but it has a limited shelf-life.

The original ISO PAS 17712, published in 2003, was developed by a working group of seal manufacturers assembled by ISO Technical Committee (TC) 104, Freight Containers. It defines the physical parameters of three levels of seal strength: indicative, security and high security. The strength of a seal is measured with tests based on impact, shear, bend and tensile strength values, the measures of strength, reflected numbers in use by major customs authorities.

As a series of programs, such as the US Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism and the World Customs Organisation's Framework of standards, endorsed and encouraged the use of ISO compliant seals, the quality of seals used in international trade improved.

However, it became increasingly clear that security-related practices were as important as the physical strength of a seal. Whether through immature management practices or miscommunication, manufacturers and distributors could effectively compromise the security of a seal before it was shipped out of the door.

Following ISO procedures, the working group produced a Normative Annex for security management practices; the annex requires certification after inspection by a qualified independent reviewer. TC 104 approved the revision and ISO published it as ISO PAS 17712:2006.

The two most important features of the revision are:

Seals must show a mark to indicate their grade - "H" for high security, "S" for security and "I" for indicative.

Only manufacturers certified as compliant with the normative annex may put grade markings on seals. ergo ISO compliant seals can only come from ISO compliant sources.

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As A Supplier



What is ISO PAS 17712?

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ISO/PAS 17712 and How it Affects Suppliers

What is ISO/PAS 17712?

ISO/PAS 17712 (Publicly Available Specification) establishes "uniform procedures for classification, acceptance, and withdrawal of acceptance of mechanical freight containers."

ISO/PAS 17712 defines the various types of security seals available and describes in general performance requirements for each product type as well as details of testing

Seals are defined as either **I** Indicative, **S** Security or **H** High Security and general requirements stipulate that seals must be:

- Strong and durable against weather, chemical action and undetectable tampering.
- Easy to apply and seal.
- Be permanently and uniquely marked and numbered.
- The manufacturer's logo should be easily identifiable.

In order to define whether a seal should be classified as **I**, **S** or **H** and meet C-TPAT requirements, all security seals must be tested at an ISO/IEC 17025 certified test house for classification.

ISO/PAS 17712 defines the tests and suggested apparatus for security seals, including pull, shear (cutting), bend and impact test.

In addition to complying with physical requirements, the manufacturer and approved user of the security seal must also comply with requirements set down in additional points in Annex A (Normative).

What is Annexe A (Normative)?

In November 2004, ISMA and ISO decided to further clarify the conditions of ISO/PAS 17712. As a result of the meeting, changes were made to the initial document and Annexe A (Normative) was significantly amended.

The aim of these amendments was to introduce, develop and implement a program

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enhance security throughout the supply chain in accordance with C-TPAT guidelines. focus on security measures which span the lifetime of a security seal and describe six audit trail. This "chain of custody" spans from the initial design of the seal at the start through to the effective "afterlife" of the seal.

Chain of Custody – Design Process To After Life

The guidelines describe enhanced measures which must be in place in order to secure compliance. It describes the six life stages of a security seal and is summarized as follows:

■ **Design process**

This section basically asks that the manufacturer "design in" tamper resistance and evidence to all of their products.

■ **Seal Manufacturer Best Practises.**

There are 12 security points for compliance whereby manufacturers and their suppliers are ISO 9000:2001 compliant and implement security measures detailed in the guidelines.

■ **Product Certification**

To comply, all products must pass ISO performance tests and be uniquely numbered and identifiable. All seals must carry the manufacturer's unique identity mark and products are stored for specific length of time as well as implement and conform to security measures detailed in the guidelines.

■ **Distributor & Reseller Practices**

All approved distributors must also apply the same rules as the seal manufacturer and following a set of security procedures whilst demonstrating adherence to these.

■ **User Knowledge & Discipline**

This section refers to the users of the system such as customs and government agencies. The manufacturer's/distributor's role is mainly that of education and advice.

■ **In Transit Management**

While technically the responsibility for the seal is in the hands of the shippers, the manufacturer/distributor sets the procedures governing anomalies. Once again, the manufacturer/distributor is educator and advisor.

■ **Post shipment chain of custody (Seal After Life)**

The final stage involves ensuring that the historical data relating to the seal is stored.

For more details, copies of ISO/PAS 17712 are available for purchase from the ISO website.

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