



Your partner
in progress

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Dear Max, Bettina,

As discussed at the 24th International Water Mist Conference, there is some confusion about the role of BS 9991:2024, the applicability of the standard and the recommendations contained within it.

A British Standard of national origin (also known as a "British Standard" or "BS") is a document that presents good practice as defined, via consensus, by technical committees formed by a broad range of experts. British Standards are voluntary in that there is no legal obligation to apply them or comply with them, except in those few cases where their application is directly demanded by regulatory instruments. They are tools devised for the convenience of those who wish to use them.

The Foreword of all British standards contains the following text: "Users may substitute any of the recommendations in this British Standard with practices of equivalent or better outcome. Any user claiming compliance with this British Standard is expected to be able to justify any course of action that deviates from its recommendations."

In the case of BS 9991:2024, the restriction of its scope to sprinklers is intended to mean that the use of sprinklers is the default assumption when fire suppression is being considered. However, water mist systems can still be used if all parties wish, providing the water mist system can be shown as meeting all relevant recommendations of the BS and any regulatory, contractual or insurance requirements.

Yours sincerely,

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