

Kitemark[®]

Vehicle Body Repair

Technical FAQs



What does the Kitemark for Vehicle Body Repair cover?

Quite simply it covers people, methods, materials, machinery (equipment) and process management. A Kitemark licence for vehicle body repair can be awarded in any of three repair categories: 1) Cosmetic 2) Structural – Steel and 3) Structural - Specialist

What is assessed in the process of gaining Kitemark certification?

The Bodyshop Kitemark is based on the technical specification – PAS 125. It focuses on 5 key elements of the repair process as above. Furthermore, it can be awarded in any of the three identified repair types:

- 1. Cosmetic:** This repair type covers basic damage such as dents, bumper scuffs, minor paint or panel damage. Bodyshop expertise should include having SMART trained personnel, panel, M.E.T and paint skills and the use of recognised repair methods. Such repairs can be carried out from a permanent or mobile van unit.
- 2. Structural – Steel:** Repair of this type involves replacement and repair of quarter, rear or sill panel(s), welded and bonded parts and severe damage repair. Requires replacement of structural components such as chassis, Ultra High Strength Steel (UHSS) and bodysells. Skill requirements include traditional panel and paint skills, accredited bonding, joining and welding as well as the use of recognised repair methods.
- 3. Structural – Specialist:** This covers repairs to vehicles with a specialist structure which will require using specific methods in composite construction techniques when handling aluminium, carbon fibre and plastics. Skill requirements include traditional panel and paint skills, accredited advanced bonding, joining and welding techniques as well as having personnel with up to date expertise in a specialist materials.

NB: “Structural – Steel” includes “Cosmetic” and any welding or bonding operations.
“Structural - Specialist” includes “Cosmetic” and “Structural – Steel”

The scheme does not cover:

Repair processes for public service vehicles, heavy commercial vehicles or heavy goods vehicles or other non-passenger vehicles such as fork lift trucks and windscreen repairers, although the replacement of windscreens and other automotive glazing and mechanical parts/components is covered when part of the repair process; and M.O.T testing.

Who is Thatcham?

- Thatcham (insurer funded research centre) is a not-for-profit organisation which was established in 1969 by British Insurers.
- The Centre is independently operated with a Board of Directors drawn from the insurer members who fund the work
- Thatcham's main aim is to carry out research targeted at containing or reducing the cost of motor insurance claims, whilst maintaining safety and quality standards.

What is PAS 125?

- PAS stands for Publicly Available Specification and is a form of standard that is written and produced by a panel of representatives from across the industry sector.
- PAS 125 is owned and maintained by BSI.
- PAS 125 is the industry agreed technical specification for the process of vehicle body repair. It provides bodyshops with the processes and procedures directly related to the safe repair of accident damaged vehicles.
- PAS 125 details minimum requirements for competent personnel, appropriate and well maintained equipment, suitable repair methods and quality repair materials.
- The PAS focuses on the five key elements of repair – methods, people, equipment and materials as well as repair process management with an emphasis on continual improvement.

What is the difference between PAS 125 and the Thatcham BSI Kitemark for Vehicle Body Repair?

- PAS 125 is a technical specification
- Kitemark is the certification mark which actually demonstrates that a bodyshop meets the requirements of PAS 125 and the Kitemark criteria on an ongoing basis.

- Kitemark has unrivalled public recognition providing confidence that accident damaged vehicles can be repaired to the latest standards.
- Kitemark bodyshops are re-assessed annually to ensure that the standards are being maintained. They also receive mystery shopping visits. Only Kitemark certified bodyshops can display the Kitemark logo.

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