

BS 8654:2015

UK Regulation on Domestic and Hospitality Articles intended for contact with foodstuffs

BS 8654:2015 is an entirely new British Standard which specifies the performance requirements for ceramic tableware intended for both domestic and hospitality (catering) use. It replaces the now withdrawn PAS 54:2003, the previous BSI performance specification for domestic ceramic ware and glassware – articles intended for food contact with foodstuffs and vases. The new British Standard retains all the ceramic performance specifications from PAS 54 for domestic ceramic ware. Several new performance criteria are introduced which include:

- Several revisions to supporting testing standards since 2003 that should be reviewed to ensure familiarity with the changes
- Publication of performance requirements for hospitality tableware including additional performance requirements such as a higher testing requirement for handle strength
- Definitions for vitrified stoneware and terracotta - there is now a quantifiable definition to identify these products which is important for anybody selling or buying stoneware or terracotta to ensure that they meet the new standards and can therefore be advertised and traded as such



- Performance specification and test method for measuring the intrinsic strength of hospitality tableware, non-stick behaviour of ovenware and hob-top ceramic utensils
- Removal of references to table top glassware and vases

Vitrified Stoneware and Terracotta

Vitrified stoneware (a higher firing temperature version of traditional stoneware) and terracotta (red-brown glazed, partially glazed earthenware) are recognized as product types within the ceramics sector and for the first time are included in a standard for ceramic tableware.

This now means that products must have matching physical and performance characteristics to qualify as genuinely vitrified stoneware or terracotta.

Hospitality Ceramic Tableware Requirements

The new standard along with BS 4034:1990 (British Standard Specification for Vitrified Hotelware) provides a comprehensive performance specification for hospitality ceramic tableware. Certain aspects of the performance requirements are the same as those for domestic ceramic tableware. Other properties require a higher performance specification, reflecting the more demanding service environment that hospitality ceramic tableware endures. Intrinsic strength is a material property that has been introduced into the section for hospitality ceramic tableware - this reflects the need for higher strength in the hospitality service environment. ■ *Source: Lucideon.com*

