ALARM SPECIFICATIONS

Installation

In the United Kingdom the alarm system must be installed and maintained by a company which is recognised as an installer of intruder alarms by either the National Security Inspectorate (NSI) or the Security Systems and Alarms Inspection Board (SSAIB). It must also be recognised as a Compliant Company by the relevant responding police force. Remote signalling must be to an Alarm Receiving Centre which is inspected and certified by NSI or SSAIB.

Note: In some circumstances, a more restricted selection of installation maintenance and / or monitoring companies may be warranted.

Note: Choose a company that is experienced in commercial installations for high security risks such as jewellers and the like.

Control Equipment

Except for ancillary control equipment and keypads which are recognised by NSI as Type A and which must not be visible from outside the building, control and signalling equipment must be located in a position where it is concealed from general view and is least vulnerable to attack.

The system must be designed to record and store the events (including the time and date of each) defined below, which have occurred within the preceding 30 days. The system must be capable of recording a minimum of 100 events and producing a hard copy record of events.

Where the number of recordable events during a 30 day period is likely to exceed 100, the event recording capability must be extended accordingly. More than 3 consecutive events of the same condition need not be recorded.

Events and information for recording purposes include setting, unsetting, reset, any activation, fault, isolation or an inhibit of any part of the system, transmission failure including loss of capability to transmit, tamper conditions, valid user codes, alterations to clock and software and loss of mains power.

The event records must be retained for at least 30 days in the event of a power failure.

Event recording may take place at the control panel and/or at a remote location.

Where there is remote signalling, the control and indicating equipment installed at the protected premises must provide the alarm user with a clear indication of loss of any signalling path availability:

(i) During the unset period at the time that the signalling path is lost, and

(ii) At the time of setting the system (if the fault still persists).

This requirement applies irrespective of whether the lost signalling path is the sole means of remote notification, or is one component of a dual-signalling system.

Setting/Unsetting

The means of unsetting the system described in paragraph 6.4.4 of DD 243: 2002 (whereby opening the initial entry door will disable all means of alarm confirmation throughout the protected premises) must not be employed.

Time delays incorporated into the entry route to be kept to a minimum to allow entry/exit without causing false alarms e.g. by use of Type A remote keypads (those in which processing of the code is not carried out) in conjunction with a main panel located in a secure area. The total delay including secondary timers when used must not exceed 1 minute.

Detectors incorporated into the final exit route should create an alarm condition if their activation is not preceded by the initiation of the correct unsetting procedure.

For systems incorporating remote signalling, set and unset signals must be transmitted to and logged at the alarm receiving centre.

Warning Devices

Audible warning must be by either two external self actuating audible warning devices OR one external self actuating warning device and an internal self actuating siren or two tone electronic sounder, each giving a sound emission of at least 100dB at 1 metre.

All external warning devices shall have the mechanisms and circuits enclosed within a metal housing and be designed to detect or resist the injection of foam.

Where there is a single external warning device installed and it is sited below 3 metres in height (i.e. within reasonable access from ground level), this must always be supplemented by a second external self actuating warning device. This second external warning device to be sited on a different elevation of the premises if possible.

All warning devices must be instantaneous in operation unless:
A delay is required by the local Police Force Intruder Alarm Policy in which case the delay shall be for the minimum duration specified in that Policy and clearly stated in the intruder alarm specification or an audio confirmation alarm system is installed.

Any such delay must be automatically removed in the event of loss of remote signalling capability or withdrawal of police response. This applies irrespective of the method of confirmation (if any).

Where the system has remote signalling, any internal warning device must be sited remotely from the control panel so as not to identify the position of the panel when activated. For the same reason, any internal sounders used as part of the alarm setting/unsetting procedure must also be sited remotely from the control panel.

Detector Equipment

Preference should be given to the use of equipment appearing on the current Loss Prevention Council List of approved products and services if suited to the purpose.

When the system is in test mode only it shall be possible for one person to check the area of detection of all movement detectors.

In areas where there is a possibility that detectors could be subject to compromise (e.g. unsupervised access by members of the public), consideration should be given to the use of detectors incorporating anti-masking features.

Confirmable Alarm Systems

The whole system to be designed and configured such that when an intruder enters any part of the protected premises there is a high degree of certainty that the alarm system will deliver a confirmed alarm message.

Signalling must be via an acceptable dual-signalling system such as RedCare GSM or Dualcom GPRS (with grade 4 signalling).

Following the cancellation of an alarm signal the system must re-arm without any zone, sensor or detector being locked out so that the whole system remains alert to signal further alarm information during the set period.

To prevent tampering once the system has been set, all microphones and cameras intended for confirmation purposes must be located within areas covered by intruder alarm detection devices.

Audio and visual confirmation technologies must not be used in isolation. Detectors used with audio or visual confirmation must be configured to provide a back-up sequential confirmation capability.

All control and signalling equipment other than remote keypads must be located so that it cannot be accessed whilst the alarm is set without creating a confirmed alarm condition.

The alarm specification must include the actions to be taken by the alarm receiving centre upon receipt of the following alarm messages or information:

- A confirmed alarm condition (including circumstances where the loss of one or more signalling paths contributes to the confirmation criteria)

- An unconfirmed alarm condition (including any variations according to whether or not the system can be rearmed in its entirety)

- A telecommunications failure (including the failure of one telecommunication path in a Dual-path signalling system)

Important Note:

Due to their nature, Jewellery locations are considered to be high risk and therefore the level of protection nearly always demands better security. Ensure that the installing company is experienced with higher risk locations such as jewellery stores. Smaller companies may give a more personal service and often better than national companies, however you should check and ask if they have worked for other jewellery businesses and if so ask for names. Always consult with an Installer who has experience of jewellery trade.

Before installing an Intruder Alarm System please send us a copy of the proposed specification so we can confirm it meets Insurer's requirements.

Even the most sophisticated Intruder alarm protection is no substitute for physical security. All of the suggested forms of protection under this section are to be implemented in conjunction with strong physical security.