SECURED BY DESIGN
ALARM STANDARD
Technical Guide Version 2.0

Secured by Design

SBD

Official Police Security Initiative

Contents

Introduction

Secured by Design (SBD) is part of Police Crime Prevention Initiatives (Police CPI), a police owned organisation that delivers a wide range of crime prevention and demand reduction initiatives across the UK, and brings organisations together to create safer communities.

Police CPI provide the Secretariat to the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) Security Systems Group to monitor police strategies and technical developments and advise on police requirements. Police CPI also provide support to police forces and the private security industry on the administration of police response to security systems, including intruder alarms.

Police CPI work with the national alarm inspectorate bodies and trade organisations for the security industry – the National Security Inspectorate (NSI), the Security Systems and Alarms Inspection Board (SSAIB), the Fire and Security Association (FSA) and the British Security Industry Association (BSIA) – to develop a partnership approach with the private security industry, specifically to improve the performance of security systems and increase the preventative impact and detection rate emanating from such systems.

Due to Police CPI's technical intervention and the unified approach by police forces, there has been a decrease of over 1.1million false calls to the police due to faulty equipment or user error. When set against a backdrop of an increase of 796,078 registered alarms in 1995 to 1,493,706 in 2020, this represents a significant reduction in demand on police time and resources.

Following increasing industry interest, Police CPI has created a new SBD Alarm Standard for alarm installation companies that will provide a high quality alarm system and further reduce false calls. The new standard is not a replacement for the NPCC Security Systems Policy or an alternative for certification by a UKAS accredited certification body – currently delivered by the NSI and SSAIB – but incorporates the existing criteria whilst building on police and industry knowledge and expertise to produce the new enhanced SBD Alarm Standard.

The SBD Alarm Standard has been introduced to further reduce false calls and to provide an alarm system of an enhanced quality.

Our team of Development Officers will help guide you through the process of gaining membership and explore with you the advantages of becoming a SBD police recognised alarm system installer.

For more information visit: **https://www.policesecuritysystems.com**
or contact your nearest SBD Development Officer
https://www.policesecuritysystems.com/contact-us

1 Company requirements for SBD Alarm Systems

1.1 Trading

1.1.1 Companies will be required to have been compliant with their home police force for a minimum period of 2 years.

1.2 Sales

1.2.1 In order to counter the harassment, intimidation, distress and threatening behaviour that sometimes accompanies some forms of unlawful Direct Marketing activity, sales of SBD Alarm Systems shall only be via marketing routes that comply with the following:

a. All electronic and telephone communication, by whatever means, with potential and existing customers shall be in accordance with the Privacy and Communications (EC Directive) Regulation 2003 (PECR), see the Information Commissioners Office Direct Marketing Guidance document at: https://ico.org.uk/media/1555/direct-marketing-guidance.pdf

b. All face to face doorstep sales staff (directly or indirectly employed) shall comply with the 'Consumer Contracts (Information and Additional Charges) Regulations 2013'.

c. All door to door sales shall be compliant with the law, further guidance regarding door to door sales and the legal requirements and implications can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/doorstep-selling-regulations

1.3 Training

1.3.1 The design, installation, commissioning and maintenance of the **SBD Alarm System**, shall be approved by individual(s) holding industry recognised qualifications and competencies, e.g. NVQ Level 2; BTEC Level 3; Certified Technical Security Professional (CTSP) or, Fire, Emergency and Security Systems (FESS) Level 3 Apprenticeship Standard *(see Note 1.3.1)*.

Note 1.3.1 Not required for those involved in the design, installation, commissioning and maintenance of standard NPCC compliant alarm systems.

1.3.2 All end users shall be fully trained in the use of the SBD Alarm System in accordance with Annex A.

1.4 Procedural

1.4.1 Remote restores, sometimes known as remote resets, are not allowed after a policed false alarm activation. Resets for policed false alarm activations are to be completed on site by an engineer only.

1.4.2 Following commissioning and handover, all SBD Alarm Systems will be subject to a 14 day soak test period before a police response is requested by the Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC).

1.4.3 Engineers must place the system on test with the ARC when they arrive on site and remove from test when they leave. No alarm activations shall be sent to the police during that period unless accompanied by an audio-visual confirmation or a duress code.

1.4.4 The licence for an individual SBD Alarm System may be removed if two or more policed false alarm activations are recorded in a rolling 12 month period, if caused by:

- Engineers not putting the SBD Alarm System on test
- Errors during the installation and commissioning process

1.4.5 The performance of SBD Alarm Systems will be monitored by the police for compliance and reliability.

2   Technical requirements for a SBD Alarm System (Residential)

2.1   Standards and Grades

2.1.1 All SBD Alarm Systems to be compliant with 'PD 6662 Scheme for the application of European Standards for intruder and hold up alarms', and only certificated equipment is to be used.

2.1.2 The minimum requirement is a Grade 2 alarm system with the addition of anti-masking properties.

2.2   Signalling

2.2.1 SBD Alarm Systems will have dual path signalling to Dual Path 2 standard as a minimum.

2.3   Hold-up Alarms

2.3.1 Exposed cables for hold-up alarm buttons should be physically protected by ducting, conduit or trunking.

2.3.2 Where there is no hold-up facility on the premises, hold-up signals on the Alarm Transmission System (ATS) should be prevented.

2.4   Power

2.4.1 Mains failure must be adequately managed by providing a stand-by power source to allow for a minimum 12hrs supply.

2.4.2 Mains failure must also be signalled to the ARC and keyholders notified immediately.

2.5   Confirmation Hold-Up Alarm

2.5.1 Confirmation of such a signal is required and is to be based on a risk assessment of the premises and occupants, and may be:

i) Video   ii) Audio   iii) Sequential

2.6   Confirmation of Intruder Alarms

2.6.1 Two methods of confirmation are required based on a risk assessment of the premises and occupants, i.e.

i) Sequential and video   ii) Sequential and audio   iii) Audio and video

2.7   Opening Contacts

2.7.1 All perimeter doors are to have a contact fitted.
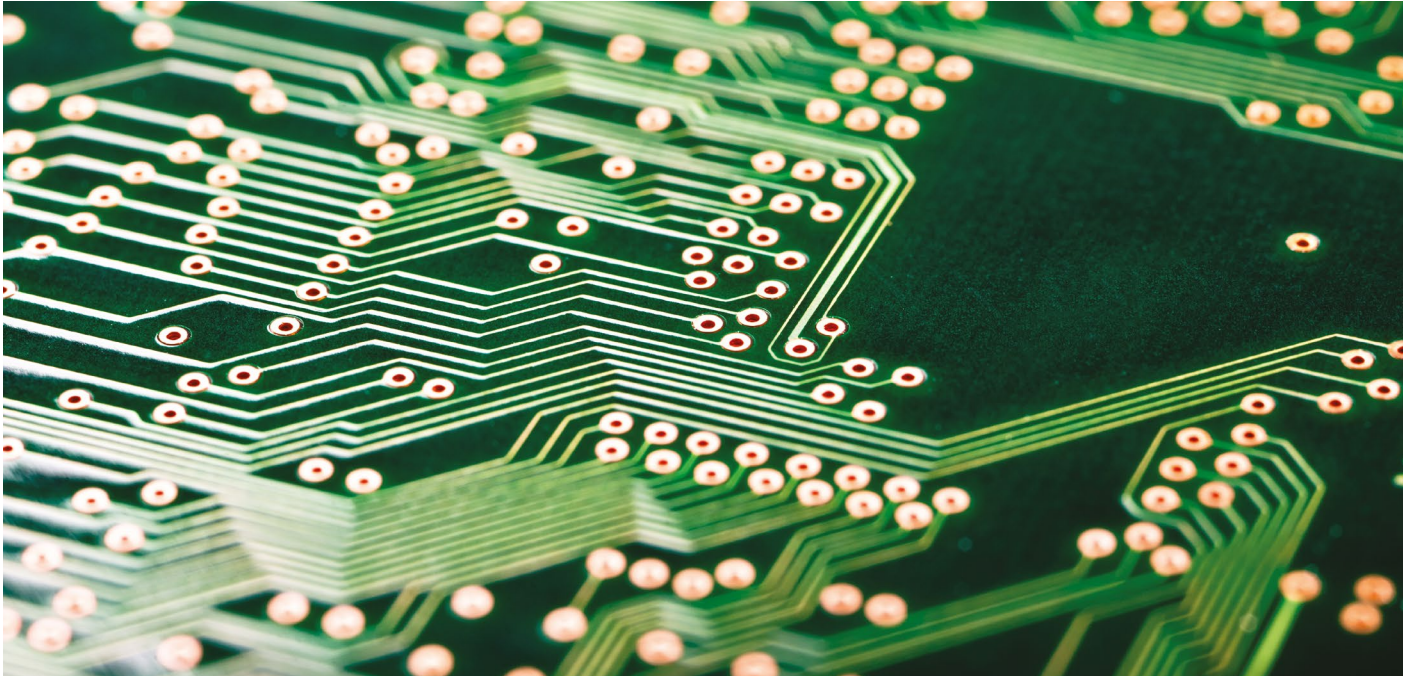
2.8 Setting and Unsetting

2.8.1 Setting and unsetting with a remote device controlled from a distance by the use of radio or electronic signals (e.g. mobile phone) is not permitted.

3 Technical requirements for a SBD Alarm System (Commercial)

3.1 Standards and Grades

3.1.1 All SBD Alarm Systems to be compliant with 'PD 6662 Scheme for the application of European Standards for intruder and hold up alarms', and only certificated equipment is to be used.

3.1.2 The minimum requirement is a Grade 2 alarm system but with the addition of anti-masking properties.

3.1.3 BS 8243 Installation & configuration of intruder and hold up alarms designed to generate confirmed alarm systems, unsetting options 6.4.2 & 6.4.3 are permitted only.

BS 8243 6.4.2 – Prevention of entry to the supervised premises before the intruder alarm system is unset.

BS 8243 6.4.3 – Prevention of entry to the supervised premises before all means of intruder alarm confirmation are disabled.

3.2 Signalling

3.2.1 Systems should have dual path signalling to Dual Path 2 as a minimum.

3.3 Hold-Up Alarms

3.3.1 Exposed cables for hold-up alarm buttons should be physically protected by ducting, conduit or trunking.

3.3.2 Where there is no hold-up facility on the premises, hold-up signals on the Automatic Transmission System (ATS) should be prevented.

3.3.3 Hold-up alarms from any part of the system that is set, should not result in a police response.

3.4   Power

3.4.1   Mains failure must be adequately managed by providing a stand-by power source to allow for a minimum 12hrs supply.

3.4.2   Mains failure must also be signalled to the ARC and keyholders notified immediately.

3.5   Confirmation of Hold-up Alarm

3.5.1   Confirmation is required and is to be based on a risk assessment of the premises and occupants and may be:

i) Video   ii) Audio   iii) Sequential

3.6   Confirmation of Intruder Alarms

3.6.1   Two methods of confirmation are required based on a risk assessment of the premises and occupants, i.e:

i) Sequential and video   ii) Sequential and audio   iii) Audio and video

3.7   Sub-systems

3.7.1   Sub-systems must have adequate safeguards to ensure staff cannot enter protected areas while alarmed, e.g. electronic door locks linked to the system and turning it off prior to staff entering.

3.8   Setting and Unsetting

3.8.1   Setting and unsetting with a remote device controlled from a distance by the use of radio or electronic signals (e.g. mobile phone) is not permitted.

Annex A

User Training Requirements

1. Setting and unsetting of the alarm system.
2. Alarm abort procedure, including passwords.
3. Checking all perimeter doors and windows are closed and secure.
4. Correct use of the hold-up alarm system in accordance with NPCC Policy.
5. Keeping a record of alarms and engineer visits.
6. How to conduct a regular user walk test.

Annex B

Record of differences between the original SBD Alarm Standard and Version 2.0

Introduction: New statistics and rewording.

1.2.1 Clarified requirements and guidance offered regarding direct marketing activity.

1.3.1 Addition of 'BTEC Level 3; Certified Technical Security Professional (CTSP)' as a qualification option, and the accompanying note.

1.4.1 New reference to policed false alarm calls.

1.4.4 New reference to the removal of an individual SBD Alarm System under certain circumstances.

1.4.5 Removal of reference to a 50% false call rate.

2.4.1 In the event of power failure a 12 hour battery supply is now required and not 24 hour.

3.4.1 In the event of power failure a 12 hour battery supply is now required and not 24 hour.

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For further information regarding Secured by Design membership, please visit:
www.securedbydesign.com (Home page/Member Companies/How to Join)

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