

Intruder alarm systems in buildings —

Part 1: Specification for installed systems with local audible and/or remote signalling

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Foreword

This Part of the revision of BS 4737 has been prepared under the direction of the Furniture and Household Equipment Standards Committee to reflect technical advances since the publication of the 1978 edition of Section 1.1 and the 1977 edition of Section 2.1; it consolidates and supersedes the requirements of these previous sections, which are withdrawn.

The main objectives of BS 4737 are to maximize the effectiveness of intruder alarm systems in respect of the detection and signalling of unauthorized intrusions and to minimize the incidence of false alarms.

BS 4737 is being revised and published in Parts as follows.

- Part 1: *Specification for installed systems with local audible and/or remote signalling;*
- Part 2: *Specification for installed systems for deliberate operation;*
- Part 3: *Specification for components (incorporating a revision of the existing Sections 3.1 to 3.14 of BS 4737);*
- Part 4: *Codes of practice;*
- Part 5: *Glossary of terms.*

BS 4737 does not give any requirements for degree of protection, and a prospective subscriber should give careful consideration to the extent and degree of protection required having regard to the nature of the premises to be protected, the value of its contents and the prevailing circumstances. It should be recognized that comprehensive protection necessarily entails substantial expense but that no intruder alarm system can possibly detect all forms of unauthorized entry or be completely tamper-proof.

The successful operation of an intruder alarm system requires the active cooperation of the subscriber in carrying out the necessary procedures carefully and thoroughly. The usefulness of the whole system and its social acceptability can be jeopardized by lack of care. This care has to extend to the security of keys and of information regarding the system, its design, installation and method of operation and to ensuring adequate maintenance, to preserve the protection of property against criminal activity and to reduce the incidence of false alarms.

BS 4737 is intended to assist insurers, alarm companies, subscribers and the police in achieving a complete and accurate specification of the protection required in particular premises, but it does not specify the extent or degree of the protection nor does it necessarily cover all of the requirements for a particular installation.

The use of detection devices other than those specified in BS 4737-3 in a system is not precluded provided that the system complies with the requirements of this Part of BS 4737 and their use is agreed in writing between the subscriber and the alarm company.

WARNING NOTE. Some detection devices may emit radiation. The fixing of radiation limits is still under consideration, nationally and internationally, but it is recommended that endeavours should be made to ensure that systems do not emit radiation when people are lawfully present in proximity to the device.

This Part of BS 4737 relates only to complete systems when installed in protected premises and not to individual components in isolation. The accuracy of any claim that an installed system complies with BS 4737 is the responsibility of the claimant under the Trades Description Act 1968. It is emphasized that claims that individual components of an intruder alarm system are made in conformity or compliance with BS 4737-1 would not be accurate as trade descriptions.

The Control of Noise (Code of Practice on Noise from Intruder Alarms) Order 1981 gives guidance on methods for reducing the incidence of nuisance caused by audible alarms. Action may be taken under the Control of Pollution Act 1974 or the Pollution Control and Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 against anyone causing an audible alarm to sound unnecessarily.

Attention is drawn to the Regulations for Electrical Installation (15th Edition, 1981, IEE).

A British Standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users of British Standards are responsible for their correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i to iv, pages 1 to 14, an inside back cover and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.

1 Scope

This Part of BS 4737 specifies general requirements for the construction, installation and operation of intruder alarm systems installed in buildings, where the principal interconnections are by physical conductors. Such systems consist of one or more detectors, one or more control equipments, one or more warning devices and/or signalling equipments and the necessary power supply equipment.

This Part of BS 4737 is not applicable to systems in which the only detectors are deliberately-operated devices (e.g. "bandit alarm" systems) or systems which use mains wire or wire-free connections within a premises other than for portable deliberately-operated devices within a system.

NOTE The titles of the publications referred to in this Part of BS 4737 are listed on the inside back cover.

2 Definitions

For the purposes of this Part of BS 4737, the following definitions apply.

2.1 General terminology

2.1.1

intruder alarm system

an electrical installation to detect and indicate the presence, entry or attempted entry of an intruder into protected premises

2.1.2

protected premises

that part of a building to which protection is afforded by an intruder alarm system

2.1.3

subscriber

a person or organization utilizing the services of an alarm company for the installation of an intruder alarm system

2.1.4

alarm company

an organization prepared to provide and install an intruder alarm system

2.1.5

central station

a continuously manned remote centre in which the information concerned with the state of a number of intruder alarm systems is displayed

2.1.6

entry route

the designated route between the outside of the protected premises and the control equipment, used when unsetting the system

2.1.7 exit route

the designated route between the control equipment and the outside of the protected premises, used when setting the system

2.1.8

alarm condition

the state of any detector, processor or tamper detection which indicates that intrusion, attempted intrusion or unauthorized interference has occurred or is about to occur

2.1.9

fault condition

a condition of any part of an intruder alarm system which has to be eliminated to restore correct operation

2.1.10

set

the state of an intruder alarm system, or part thereof, in which an alarm condition can be sent to warning devices and/or signalling equipment

2.1.11

unset

the state of an intruder alarm system, or part thereof, in which an alarm condition cannot be sent to warning devices and/or signalling equipment

2.1.12

reset

the process of removing an alarm or fault condition thereby enabling a system to be set

2.1.13

latching

a description applying to a connection or indication which remains until deliberately removed

2.1.14

tamper detection

a means for the disclosure of the existence of unauthorized interference with a component of an installed intruder alarm system

2.2 Equipment terminology

2.2.1

sensor

a device which senses a change which could be caused by the intrusion or attempted intrusion by one or more persons but does not determine whether an alarm condition should be generated

2.2.2

sensor circuit

the connection between one or more sensors and a processor