

Fire detection and alarm systems for buildings —

Part 3: Specification for automatic release mechanisms for certain fire protection equipment

ICS 13.220.20; 13.320

Confirmed October 2008

Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by the Fire Standards Committee (FSM/-) to Technical Committee FSM/12, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- British Fire Protection Systems Association Ltd.
- British Telecommunications plc
- Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers
- Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers' Association
- Department of Health and Social Security
- Department of the Environment [Building Research Establishment (Fire Research Station)]
- Department of the Environment (Property Services Agency)
- Department of Transport (Marine Directorate)
- Electrical Contractors' Association
- Electrical Installation Equipment Manufacturers' Association (BEAMA Ltd.)
- Fire Insurers' Research and Testing Organization (FIRTO)
- Fire Offices Committee
- Fire Protection Association
- Home Office
- Institution of Electrical Engineers
- Institution of Fire Engineers
- Ministry of Defence
- National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting
- Royal Institute of British Architects
- Society of Fire Protection Engineers
- Trades Union Congress

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Fire Standards Committee, was published under the authority of the Board of BSI and comes into effect on 29 April 1988

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The following BSI references relate to the work on this standard:

- Committee reference FSM/12
- Draft for comment 82/11073 DC

Amendments issued since publication

Amd. No.	Date	Comments
10207	November 1988	Insertion of note in foreword
17256	31 July 2007	See foreword

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Foreword

This Part of BS 5839 has been prepared under the direction of the Fire Standards Committee. It is based on proposals submitted by the British Fire Protection Systems Association Ltd.

The start and finish of text introduced or altered by Amendment No. 2 is indicated in the text by tags **[A1]** **<A1]**.

Fire protection equipment such as fire doors, fire shutters and fire dampers are required to be closed in the event of fire, but it may be inconvenient to have them closed at all other times. Accordingly they may be held open and, in the event of fire, released by one of the automatic release mechanisms specified in this standard. A fire alarm system, a fire detection and alarm system or one or more fire detectors may provide the signal for the operation of an automatic release mechanism. A central control may be necessary to ensure that all fire protection equipment can be released in the absence of people in the building.

Although automatic release mechanisms complying with this part of BS 5839 are intended for the release to a closed state of fire doors, etc., which are normally held open, they may also be suitable for the release, to an open state, of fire protection equipment such as covers to openings for smoke control. However, compliance with this part of BS 5839 should not be taken as implying their suitability for such uses.

Most fire doors and other fire protection equipment that can be held by one of the automatic release mechanisms specified herein may be released without a significant safety hazard requiring additional precautions or, in the event of release in the absence of fire, significant cost or inconvenience. Attention is drawn to the BS 7273 series on automatic operation of fire protection.

NOTE Attention is drawn to BS EN 1155 which specifies the requirements and test methods for 24 V d.c. electrically powered hold-open devices for swing doors.

The tests are type tests and are not intended as manufacturers' tests to maintain uniformity of quality in production, which is dealt with in BS 5750. While the tests are intended to assess the most important features of the design and construction of automatic release mechanisms, they cannot remove the necessity for regular inspection and maintenance, which is essential for reliable operation.

Product certification.

Enquiries as to the availability of third party certification schemes will be forwarded by BSI to the Association of Certification Bodies. If a third party certification scheme does not already exist, users should consider approaching an appropriate body from the list of Association members.

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations. In particular, attention is drawn to the fact that the use of an automatic release mechanism may not be permitted in all circumstances by a fire or statutory authority or may only be permitted subject to further conditions. Fire insurers may also place restrictions on the use of automatic release mechanisms.

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