

Code of practice for

Wire-free intruder alarm systems

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- Association of British Insurers
- Association of Burglary Insurance Surveyors
- Association of Chief Police Officers of England and Wales
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- British Security Industry Association
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- Electrical Contractors' Association
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- Home Office
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- Inspectors Approved Alarm Installers
- Institution of Electrical and Electronics Incorporated Engineers
- Lloyds Syndicates Survey Department
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- Ministry of Defence
- National Association of Goldsmiths of Great Britain and Ireland
- National Supervisory Council for Intruder Alarms Limited
- Post Office
- Royal Institute of British Architects
- Telecommunication Engineering and Manufacturing Association (TEMA)
- Tobacco Advisory Council
- Wine and Spirit Security Liaison Ltd.

The following body was also represented in the drafting of the standard, through subcommittees and panels:

Department of Trade and Industry (Radio Regulatory Division)

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Furniture and Household Equipment Standards Committee, was published under the authority of the Board of BSI and comes into effect on 31 October 1986.

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Contents

	Page
Committees responsible	Inside front cover
Foreword	ii
1 Scope	1
2 Definitions	1
3 Classification of systems	1
4 System selection	2
5 System provisions	3
6 Components	4
7 Operational requirements	5
8 Claims of compliance	5
Publications referred to	Inside back cover

Foreword

This British Standard code of practice has been prepared under the direction of the Furniture and Household Equipment Standards Committee to provide a classification for wire-free intruder alarm systems intended to assist insurance and alarm companies, subscribers and the police in selecting the class of equipment best suited to particular risks and to enable them to achieve a complete and accurate specification of the protection required in particular premises.

A wire-free intruder alarm system provides a non-wired signalling path, using, e.g. radio or ultrasonic frequency, between component parts of the system; this will normally be used for linking detectors and/or fixed or portable deliberately-operated devices with control equipment, but may also be used for links to ancillary or remote control equipment or between control equipment and warning and/or signalling equipment.

Wire-free systems consist of one or more transmitter units associated with a detector or detectors and a common receiver unit. This code of practice identifies five levels of system performance, in ascending order of sophistication, as classes I to V.

In simple systems, transmission only occurs when the associated detector generates an alarm condition, whilst more sophisticated systems may transmit a signal to indicate that the associated detector has returned to its quiescent state and may use specialized transmission techniques or narrow band receivers to minimize interfering signals from natural sources, or other systems, to allow monitoring of the receiver for deliberate interference.

In advanced systems, a signal is transmitted at regular intervals indicating the status of a device, this may be automatic, by use of a timer, or, where permitted by regulations, may occur as the result of interrogation from the receiver. In either case, individual identification of each transmitter is available at the receiver.

The use of radio frequency transmission by wire-free intruder alarm systems is controlled by the Department of Trade and Industry, Radio Regulatory Division and systems employing radio have to comply with the appropriate regulations.

This code of practice does not give any recommendations 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 co-operation 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.

This code of practice relates only to complete systems when installed in protected locations and not to individual components in isolation. The accuracy of any claim that an installed system complies with this code of practice is the responsibility of the claimant under the Trades Description Act of 1968. It is emphasized that claims that individual components of an Intruder alarm system are made in conformity or compliance with this code of practice 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 6, 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.