

Code of practice for

Article theft detection systems

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Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by the Furniture and Household Equipment Standards Policy Committee (FHM/-) to Technical Committee FHM/45, upon which the following bodies were represented:

Association for Payment Clearing Services
 Association of Burglary Insurance Surveyors
 Association of Chief Police Officers of England and Wales
 Association of Metropolitan Authorities
 British Retailers' Association
 British Security Industry Association
 British Telecommunications plc
 Construction Security Advisory Service
 Consumer Policy Committee of BSI
 Department of the Environment (Property Services Agency)
 Electrical Contractors' Association
 Electrical Contractors' Association of Scotland
 Electrical Installation Equipment Manufacturers' Association (BEAMA Ltd.)
 Electricity Supply Industry in England and Wales
 Electronic Engineering Association
 Federation of Security Companies
 Home Office
 Home Office Crime Prevention Centre
 Institution of Electrical and Electronics Incorporated Engineers
 Lloyds Syndicates Survey Department
 Loss Prevention Council
 Metropolitan Police
 Ministry of Defence
 National Association of Goldsmiths of Great Britain and Ireland
 National Supervisory Council for Intruder Alarms
 Royal Institute of British Architects
 Telecommunication Engineering and Manufacturing Association
 Tobacco Advisory Council
 Wine and Spirit Security Liaison Ltd.

The following bodies were also represented in the drafting of the standard, through subcommittees and panels:

Association for the Prevention of Theft in Shops
 British Library
 Department of Trade and Industry (Radiocommunications Division)
 Post Office
 Retail Consortium

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Furniture and Household Equipment Standards Policy Committee, was published under the authority of the Board of BSI and comes into effect on 29 September 1989

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Foreword

This British Standard code of practice has been prepared under the direction of the Furniture and Household Equipment Standards Policy Committee to assist specifiers, installers and users in selecting the theft detection equipment best suited to a particular article and to provide guidelines for the installation and operation of article theft detection systems.

Article theft detection systems are used typically for the protection against theft of retail merchandise, library books, office equipment and works of art by providing an indication that an article may not be in the possession of its legitimate owner.

An article theft detection system is only one of the means by which property may be protected against theft and the introduction of such a system should not lead to any relaxation of the normal care and vigilance necessary to protect an article against unauthorized removal.

It is essential that any item of fixed equipment associated with an installed system takes account of Fire Regulations and the need for access and/or exit in an emergency, together with any relevant electrical safety requirements for the equipment. Any electromagnetic or sonic energy radiated by an installation should not be capable of causing harm to persons or to electronic equipment, in particular to portable electromedical devices.

The objectives of this code of practice are as follows.

- a) The establishment and maintenance of minimum recommendations for the installation of article theft detection systems.
- b) The provision of a framework to assist purchasers, installers and users in establishing their requirements with suppliers.
- c) The assistance of specifiers and users in determining the appropriate level of security required for a given application.
- d) The assistance of system designers in meeting specifier or user requirements.
- e) The establishment of definitions for terms used within the article theft detection industry.

Attention is drawn to the Institution of Electrical Engineers' *Regulations for Electrical Installations* (15th edition, 1981) and to relevant MPT publications of the Department of Trade and Industry, Radiocommunications Division. MPT publications are available from the Department of Trade and Industry Library, Room 605, Waterloo Bridge House, Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UA.

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Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 8, 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 British Standard code of practice gives recommendations for the selection, installation, operation and management of systems for detecting and/or deterring the attempted theft of a protected article.

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

2 Definitions

For the purposes of this British Standard, the following definitions apply.

2.1

article theft detection system

a means for the identification of the attempted theft of a protected article

2.2

protected article

an item to which protection is afforded by an article theft detection system

2.3

electronic article surveillance

the detection of the removal of an article from within a designated area by the activation of a detection field

2.4

display protection system

an article theft detection system which responds to a significant movement of a protected article

2.5

illegitimate possession system

an article theft detection system which provides a visible indication that a protected article may not have been lawfully acquired

2.6

tag

a device attached to a protected article and capable of activating an electronic article theft detection system

NOTE This term is also applied to certain non-electronic devices such as dye release capsules.

2.7

live tag

a tag that has not been rendered inactive by a removal or deactivation process and consequently remains capable of affecting a detection field

2.8

active tag

a tag transmitting a characteristic signal capable of activating an appropriate detection field

2.9

tag release mechanism

a device which permits the authorized removal or deactivation of a tag on a protected article allowing the article to pass outside the designated area without activating an electronic article theft detection system

2.10

looped electrical circuit

a device which creates a warning when an open circuit is created in a continuous electrical link

2.11

control equipment

equipment which processes information collected from one or more detection fields to enable the location of a protected article to be determined

2.12

detection field

the area within which the presence of a live tag will be detected

2.13

detection rate

the number of successful activations of an electronic article theft detection system which can be initiated by a known live tag, expressed as a percentage of the number of activations attempted

2.14

designated area

the area bounded by the detection field(s) of an electronic article surveillance system

2.15

null point

a position apparently within the detection field but where an electronic article surveillance system will not be activated by a live tag

3 Selection

3.1 General

Article theft detection systems are available based on three ease of use by persons administering the system whilst at the same time providing the level of protection required for the article.

The detection method chosen should cause minimum damage to an article when applied and removed legitimately but should create maximum damage and/or attention when removed illegitimately.

It is important that the system should incorporate effective means for the removal or deactivation of a detection device to prevent misunderstandings with legitimately held articles or the activation of other similar systems elsewhere.