

Specification for

Multi-frequency tone signalling protocol for social alarm systems

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/27, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- Association of Metropolitan Authorities
- British Geriatrics Society
- Consumer Policy Committee of BSI
- Department of Health
- Electronic Components Industry Federation
- Institute of Housing
- Research Institute for Consumer Affairs
- Social Alarm Trade Association

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

This British Standard has been prepared under the direction of the Furniture and Household Equipment Standards Policy Committee in response to requests from purchasers and users of social alarm systems for the establishment of common signalling protocols to ensure that social alarm systems from different manufacturers exchange essential information and controls in a compatible manner. Essential information and controls include identification of an individual local unit, the nature of any alarm, with the type of trigger initiating this, and the controls necessary to operate any speech link between a local unit and an alarm receiving station.

Recommendations for the selection, components organization and management of a social alarm system are given in BS 6804.

This British Standard specifies the requirements for multi-frequency tone signalling, in compliance with BS 6305, for the transfer of messages and commands, this being an acknowledged method for transmitting information over the public switched telephone network. Most existing local units which use the public switched telephone network to contact an alarm receiving station already use multi-frequency tone signalling or could do so with modification.

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 and ii, pages 1 to 10, 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 specifies requirements for the transfer of information and controls within a social alarm system by means of multi-frequency (MF) tone signals passing between a local unit and an alarm receiving station via the public switched telephone network (PSTN).

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 definitions given in BS 6305 and BS 6804 apply, together with the following.

2.1

enquiry tone

a single tone, within the audible frequency range and in accordance with BS 6305, transmitted prior to the sending of information by automatic equipment to indicate that the call was initiated by electronic means

2.2

message

coded information, including standard finish tones, sent as data between a local unit and an alarm receiving station

2.3

start tone

a MF signal transmitted at the commencement of the transmission of data or commands

2.4

stop tone

a MF signal transmitted at the completion of the transmission of data or commands

2.5

guard tone

a MF signal transmitted to indicate to equipment that a command follows and to cut off speech emanating from a local unit

2.6

clear-down

termination of the PSTN connection between site control equipment and the alarm receiving station

2.7

acknowledge tone

a MF signal transmitted to confirm receipt of data or a command

2.8

command

a coded instruction

2.9

speak

speech direction to a local unit from the alarm receiving station

2.10

listen

speech direction to the alarm receiving station from a local unit

2.11

sub-unit

that part of the local unit which receives and transfers signals between medium and short range transmissions. The sub-unit may incorporate speech, trigger or indicating facilities

2.12

site control equipment

equipment connected to the local unit providing an onward PSTN connection in order that alarm calls may be directed to other site control equipment or to an alarm receiving station

2.13

data request tone

a MF signal sent by receiving equipment to inform sending equipment that contact has been established

2.14

dispersed alarm unit

a local unit that incorporates site control equipment with only one sub-unit

2.15

medium range transmission

that part of a local unit which carries signals between a sub-unit and the site control equipment

2.16

clear

termination of communication with a particular sub-unit whilst retaining connection to site control equipment

2.17

VOX

voice operated speech switching

2.18

sheltered scheme

a group of dwellings, under the care of a warden

2.19

grouped dwellings

a group of dwellings, without a warden, but possibly sharing common facilities