

BS 8593:2025



BSI Standards Publication

Deployment and use of body worn video (BWV) – Code of practice



Publishing and copyright information

The BSI copyright notice displayed in this document indicates when the document was last issued.

© The British Standards Institution 2025

Published by BSI Standards Limited 2025

ISBN 978 0 539 30453 4

ICS 33.160.40

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

Committee reference GW/1/10

Draft for comment 25/30486873 DC

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Text affected
------	---------------

Contents

	Page
Foreword	III
Introduction	1
1 Scope	2
2 Normative references	2
3 Terms and definitions	2
4 Recommendations for the system owner	4
4.1 Defining operational requirements	4
4.2 Planning	4
4.3 Deployment scenarios	6
5 Device recommendations	6
5.1 Essential functionality of BWV	6
5.2 Additional device considerations	10
5.3 VMS	12
6 General data management and security	14
6.1 General	14
6.2 General principles	14
6.3 Transfer of data for third-party remote monitoring	16
6.4 Remote storage	16
6.5 Disclosure	16
7 Remote monitoring, escalation and response	17
8 Training and support	17
8.1 General	17
8.2 Supplier's own staff, including temporary or subcontracted staff	18
8.3 User BWV training	18
8.4 Data handling training	19
8.5 Operator training	19
Annex A (informative) Visible indication of the use of BWV – Graphic options	20
<i>Figure A.1 — Suggested graphics for users of BWV</i>	21
Bibliography	22

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages I to IV, pages 1 to 23, an inside back cover and a back cover.

THIS PAGE DELIBERATELY LEFT BLANK

Foreword

Publishing information

This British Standard is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 31 December 2025. It was prepared by Subcommittee GW/1/10, *Video surveillance systems (VSS), commonly known as CCTV*, under the authority of Technical Committee GW/1, *Electronic security systems and products*. A list of organizations represented on these committees can be obtained on request to the committee manager.

Supersession

This British Standard supersedes [BS 8593:2017](#), which is withdrawn.

Information about this document

This is a full revision of the document, and introduces the following principal changes:

- content relevant to the Data Protection Act 1998 [1] has been updated to relate to the Data Protection Act 2018 [2] and UK General Data Protection Regulation 2016 [3];
- the privacy impact assessment (PIA) that was part of the Data Protection Act 1998 [1] has been replaced by a data protection impact assessment (DPIA)-focused approach; and
- the term “closed circuit television” (CCTV) has been replaced by “video surveillance systems” (VSS).

This publication can be withdrawn, revised, partially superseded or superseded. Information regarding the status of this publication can be found in the Standards Catalogue on the BSI website at knowledge.bsigroup.com, or by contacting the Customer Services team.

Where websites and webpages have been cited, they are provided for ease of reference and are correct at the time of publication. The location of a webpage or website, or its contents, cannot be guaranteed.

This publication contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Use of this document

As a code of practice, this British Standard takes the form of recommendations and guidance. It is not to be quoted as if it were a specification. Users are expected to ensure that claims of compliance are not misleading.

Users may substitute any of the recommendations in this British Standard with practices of equivalent or better outcome. Any user claiming compliance with this British Standard is expected to be able to justify any course of action that deviates from its recommendations.

Presentational conventions

The provisions of this document are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its recommendations are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is “should”.

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.

The word “should” is used to express recommendations of this document. The word “may” is used in the text to express permissibility, e.g. as an alternative to the primary recommendation of the clause. The word “can” is used to express possibility, e.g. a consequence of an action or an event.

Notes and commentaries are provided throughout the text of this document. Notes give references and additional information that are important but do not form part of the recommendations. Commentaries give background information.

Where words have alternative spellings, the preferred spelling of the *Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* is used (e.g. “organization” rather than “organisation”).

Contractual and legal considerations

This publication has been prepared in good faith, however no representation, warranty, assurance or undertaking (express or implied) is or will be made, and no responsibility or liability is or will be accepted by BSI in relation to the adequacy, accuracy, completeness or reasonableness of this publication. All and any such responsibility and liability is expressly disclaimed to the full extent permitted by the law.

This publication is provided as is, and is to be used at the recipient’s own risk.

The recipient is advised to consider seeking professional guidance with respect to its use of this publication.

This publication is not intended to constitute a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

Introduction

The proliferation and use of cameras to capture images and stream video footage continues to develop in both technical capability and in its attraction to the market. Every day, images are captured using a camera that can be shared on social media, used on television networks or be used as potential evidence to prove something has or has not happened.

Technology has made video surveillance systems (VSS) a more personal aspect of our daily lives, primarily through mobile devices such as mobile phones and tablets and increasingly through body worn video (BWV) cameras. These devices come equipped with cameras, audio and recording, and radio transmission capabilities that allow for the immediate or retrospective uploading of video, images and audio (collectively referred to in this standard as “data”) anywhere in the world.

The consequences of this are widespread in terms of privacy and security.

The use of BWV offers advantages such as providing the user with a sense of protection; and having a second pair of eyes and ears if something goes wrong.

It is, however, not without its challenges in terms of operational use, technical capability, security of data and privacy to those being recorded.

Legislation in the UK addresses data protection and privacy, as well as the use of VSS as evidence in both criminal and civil cases (see the Data Protection Act 2018 [2] and UK General Data Protection Regulation [3] for further information). While technical standards and guidance exist, there are still many circumstances where extra guidance on the use, limitations and restrictions of VSS is needed.

The Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) has published a code of practice for VSS {see *Video surveillance (including guidance for organisations using CCTV)* [4]} to promote good practice and attention is drawn to UK General Data Protection Regulation [3] in respect of system owners’ obligations when processing personal data. This applies across all sectors in the UK.

Recognizing the complexities of VSS, the government has provided specific guidance for the use of surveillance cameras in public spaces; attention is drawn to the *Surveillance camera code of practice* [5], which covers all forms of surveillance cameras including BWV.

When processing data to be used as evidence, attention is drawn to the Forensic Science Regulator’s *Code of practice* [6].

This British Standard aims to support the work of the various public and private sector organizations by providing a common framework for the appropriate and proportional use of BWV, enabling a balance between safety, security and the privacy of people being recorded. It provides recommendations that can be used consistently across multiple applications such as the police and criminal justice systems, parking and civil enforcement and lone workers. It also provides a common framework for integration into other technology and use.

1 Scope

This British Standard provides technical and operational recommendations for the deployment and use of body worn video (BWV) for recording interactions between the wearer and other parties, or the environments in which the wearer finds themselves.

This British Standard is applicable to BWV users, system owners and suppliers, giving recommendations on how data are captured, viewed, stored, handled and retained securely.

NOTE Examples of where BWV might be used include emergency services, night-time economy (e.g. licensed premises), taxi marshalling, warden schemes, security guarding, parking enforcement and door supervision.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes provisions, or limits the application, of this document¹⁾. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

[BS EN 60529:1992+A2:2013](#), *Degrees of protection provided by enclosures (IP code)*

[BS EN ISO/IEC 27001](#), *Information technology – Security techniques – Information security management systems – Requirements*

[BS ISO/IEC 18033-3](#), *Information technology – Security techniques – Encryption algorithms – Part 3: Block ciphers*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1 alarm receiving centre (ARC)

continuously manned remote centre which receives activations from BWV and engages with users and response services

NOTE For further guidance on ARCs, see NPCC Police operational advice and security industry requirements for response to security systems [7], [BS 9518](#), [BS EN 50518:2019+A1](#) and [BS 5979](#) (withdrawn).

3.2 body worn video (BWV)

device worn by a user that incorporates a camera, microphone, other hardware and software to enable the visual and audio recording, live transmission, storage and subsequent exporting of its data for the specified deployment

NOTE Can also be referred to as body worn camera.

3.3 control room

location where operational procedures are monitored and/or managed

[SOURCE: [BS 7499:2020](#), 3.4]

3.4 data

video and/or audio and associated metadata [such as storage location, identifiers, geolocation, time, date, audit trail (e.g. buttons pressed) that comprise the recording from the BWV]

¹⁾ Documents that are referred to solely in an informative manner are listed in the Bibliography.

3.5 data controller

person or organization that decides on the purposes for which and the manner in which any personal data are, or are to be, processed

3.6 data destination

location that stores data from BWV [e.g. video management system (VMS), evidence management system, cloud data centre]

3.7 operator

person specifically designated and authorized by the owner of an ARC, VSS control centre or control room to monitor, respond and manage information received from a BWV

3.8 response services

response to an incident by the emergency services or other resources the system owner might have

NOTE Other resources might include a private security company or other service providers.

3.9 secure facility

location that is designated and operated with security measures to restrict unauthorized access

3.10 supplier

provider of a BWV system

3.11 system controller

integration and system management point for BWV

NOTE Can also provide temporary storage of data for high-speed offloading of BWV data before transferring to the data destination.

3.12 system owner

legal person or entity, agency or individual designated as having overall responsibility for the formulation and implementation of the policies, objectives and control of a BWV system

NOTE The owner might be a partnership, provided it has a formal constitution. The data controller might also be the system owner.

3.13 user

individual wearing and/or operating BWV

3.14 video management system (VMS)

software installed locally on computers, installed within an organization's network, or accessed online, that primarily enables the management of video footage produced by BWVs, including but not limited to viewing, editing, sharing and deletion

NOTE 1 Other functions might include managing the status, configuration and firmware of BWVs, viewing live camera geolocations, and generating management information around the BWV usage and status.

NOTE 2 Some of these functionalities might reside in the system controller.

3.15 video surveillance system (VSS) control centre

secure central location for a VSS scheme, where images are collected, used, disclosed, retained or disposed of

[SOURCE: [BS 7958:2015](#), 3.1, modified – term “CCTV control centre” changed to “video surveillance system (VSS) control centre” and “CCTV” changed to “VSS” in the definition]