

An Update on Standards



David Profit, Technical Manager at SSAIB provides an overview of standards development in the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

The vast majority of the schemes offered by SSAIB are underpinned by either British or, increasingly, European standards. In addition to these there are other 'regulations', or in the case of the manned security industry in the UK, legislative requirements. Legislative requirements also apply to all security related activities in the Republic of Ireland.

Let's take a look at some of the new standards under development that will apply to installers of security systems both in the UK and in the Republic of Ireland.

First the UK

In the UK PD 6662 has been developed to 'manage' the introduction of the new European standards. PD 6662 will be revised, probably in late 2008/early 2009, to include all the European standards which have been published since the last amendments were made to PD 6662: 2004 in January and March 2006. The list of standards to be included in the revision of PD 6662 is quite long, but mainly reflects a transition from 'TS' (Technical Specification) to 'EN' (European Norms) i.e. standards.

- **EN 50131-1:2006 Alarm systems**
Intrusion and hold-up systems. System requirements.
- **TS 50131-2-3:2004 Alarm systems**
Intrusion systems. Requirements for microwave detectors.
- **TS 50131-2-2:2004 Alarm systems**
Intrusion systems. Requirements for passive infrared detectors.
- **TS 50131-2-4:2004 Alarm systems**
Intrusion systems. Requirements for combined passive infrared and microwave detectors.

- **TS 50131-2-5:2004 Alarm systems**
Intrusion systems. Requirements for combined passive infrared and ultrasonic detectors
- **EN 50131-6:2008 Alarm systems**
Intrusion and hold-up systems. Power supplies.

Now the Republic of Ireland

In Ireland the situation is somewhat different, particular with regard to those activities covered by the Private Security Industry Act 2001. For intruder alarms the Act currently calls up IS EN 50131-1: 1997. However, this version of the standard is due to be withdrawn on the 1st May 2009 and it will be replaced with the 2006 version of the standard. As with the UK existing "TS" standards are being replaced by ENs but as these are mainly equipment standards they should not have a major impact on the activities of installers.

Returning to the UK

DD 263: 2007 is a code of practice which is not called up in PD 6662. SSAIB, in association with other industry bodies, agreed not to include reference to it in PD 6662 at this time. However it may be included in PD 6662 when this standard is revised later this year.

In addition to DD 263 several other UK standards have been revised or amended within the past 12 months or so:

BS 8473:2007 *Management of False Alarms*

This standard replaces DD 245. One of the main changes relates to the 'remote reset' requirements. Until the new standard was published two remote resets in a rolling twelve month period were permitted. The new standard reduced this to one, however, following complaints the standard is to be amended to permit two remote resets in a rolling twelve months as was previously the case.

BS 5979:2007 *Alarm Receiving Centres*

This standard replaces BS 5979:2000. The revised standard is substantially the same as the previous one. However one of the changes relates to the construction of the shell of an ARC, the new revised standard permitting walls as well as ceilings to be constructed of steel sheets supported by a suitably rigid framework.

The other major changes relates to the opening of the airlock doors. In the previous standard both the internal and external doors were required to be controlled from within the control room. The new standard permits the outer airlock door to be opened from within the lobby providing a CCTV monitor is provided in the airlock to allow the area immediately outside the external airlock door to be viewed.

BS 7499:2007 *Static Guarding and Mobile Patrols*

This standard replaces BS 7499:2002. There are major changes related mainly to harmonising the standard with the Security Industry Authority requirements with respect to training and screening. The new standard also introduced requirements to provide backup power for computer and other electronic equipment.

Changes to the ACPO Policy

With regard to other 'regulations' applicable to installers of intruder alarm system and detector operated CCTV systems, in the UK ACPO has introduced an amended version of its policy. The main changes compared with the November 2006 version of the policy are as follows:

- Installers must be registered with their 'home' force before applying for registration with other forces.
- Following three false alarms in a twelve month period, response will be withdrawn fourteen days after the withdrawal letter has been issued. Previously no period was indicated.
- When a PNC check is requested where prosecution is pending for a relevant offence, the decision regarding suitability will be deferred until the outcome of the case is known.
- When an application for a PNC check on a foreign national is made, the application must include the results of a relevant overseas criminal record check; this must be translated into English.
- When response to personal attack alarms is withdrawn 'intervention', (e.g. call back, visual or audible verification) must be provided to reinstate response. This will be possible only after three months of operation without false calls being generated.
- With the exception of BS EN 50131-1 Grade 4 or BS 7042, systems duress facilities provided by many control panels must be disabled.