

SPOTLIGHT ON Audio and Video Door Entry

Audio and Video Door Entry Systems are used to verify a persons identity prior to them being allowed entrance into a building.

- Sheltered Accommodation
- Blocks of Flats
- Schools
- Secure Entrances
- Office Blocks
- Large Houses

Design Consideration

Design Comment

Audio or Video?

The choice is dictated by the level of confirmation required by the end user in conjunction with budget. Video systems offer a higher level of verification, often important in an environment where people using the system are unknown to the person answering the phone. This is however countered by higher prices compared to audio only systems.

Digital or Analogue?

Traditional systems have 1 button per internal handset. Whilst this type of system makes it easy to identify the phone you want to ring, it often becomes impractical for large buildings that would require numerous buttons. As an alternative to this, digital systems with a numerical keypad offer excellent flexibility and the ability to future proof.

DDA Compliance?

This is a grey area with no definitive guidelines stipulating what is required for a panel to be DDA compliant. Adaptations to normal panels include tactile illuminated buttons, braille characters, LED indicators, sounder and audio induction loops.

The installation height of a panel is also important. It may be necessary to install dual height panels for both able bodied and wheelchair users.

Integrated Access Control Required?

Systems often require integrated access control such as a proximity reader or keypad. Most door entry manufactures offer their own stand alone system, it is however possible to incorporate a "cut out" into most entry panels so that proximity readers from popular suppliers can be fitted. This allows the entry panel to be incorporated into existing or proposed site wide access control.

Trade Facilities?

It may be important to include a 'Trade Facility' within the panel. This is a door open button that allows entry during fixed times of the day. This is often required for services such as post delivery.

CCTV Integration?

It is possible to integrate CCTV images onto a door entry system. Images can either be modulated onto stand alone video door entry units or communal TV systems where pictures are viewed on a spare TV channel. This is often an excellent way to minimise costs whilst still providing video confirmation.

IP Integration?

Some manufacturers are now offering IP Audio / Video Entry systems enabling systems to be added to data networks. This allows doors to be controlled from local or remote PC's and integration with other building systems.

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DDA Compliance

- Induction Loops and Infra Red Systems for the Hearing Impaired installed in Reception desks, Multi Purpose Rooms, Function Rooms, Churches, Classrooms
- Refuge Area Communication Systems
- Soundfield Systems for Schools, Colleges
- Accessible Alarms for toilets, showers, changing rooms
- Automatic Door Operators

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