

SPOTLIGHT ON Police Notification

“Notification” is the term used in European Standards to describe what was traditionally referred to as “Police Signaling” via an Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC). There are several different ways to achieve notification and several different grades, detailed below.

Differences Between Alarm Transmission System (ATS) Standards

BS 50131-1:2006+A1:2009 grades notification devices from 1 up to 6. There are several differences between graded equipment including:

- Time Taken to Transmit signal to ARC
- Time to Report Signal to ARC following alarm
- Encryption level of information sent to ARC

Grading Requirements for Notification

Within each alarm grade (excluding 1, which is rarely installed), 4 different levels of notification are possible:

- A – Remotely powered Siren + Single Transmission Path to ARC
- B – Self Powered Siren + Single Transmission Path to ARC
- C – Dual Transmission Paths to ARC
- D – Single more secure Transmission Path to ARC

Examples

- A Grade 2a system comprises Grade 2 equipment e.g. PIR's and a notification device to ATS 2. This notification device has a single transmission path to connect with an ARC e.g. telephone line.
- A Grade 3C system comprises Grade 3 equipment, an ATS 3 notification device and a separate ATS 4 device. The notification devices are built into one unit and provide two independent methods of connection to the ARC.

Single or Twin Transmissions to ARC

- If a line fault occurs with a single transmission path communicator e.g. the line is cut, police notification will not be possible - a line fault alone will be recorded and only the key holders notified.
- To overcome this, notification equipment is equipped with a backup communicator that utilises a secondary transmission path to send a confirmed alarm even if the telephone line is cut. If both transmission paths are compromised both the key holders and police will be notified.

What the Police Require

- To minimise the risk of police being called out to false alarms, ACPO Policy 2006 requires that, all new security systems must be capable of generating an initial alarm notification signal followed by a second notification signal to confirm the first.
- In practical terms this means that the police will only be called following activation of 2 separate detectors on separate zones e.g. PIR and Door contact within a period of 30 minutes. Careful consideration of entry/exit routes needs to be made as devices activated on these routes are not necessarily included as a separate detection event.
- In many cases, to achieve alarm confirmation, 2 detectors on 2 different zones are installed opposite one another to protect a single space. Twin Detectors, built into a single housing, are now available to achieve the same result.

Commonly used equipment

- In addition to Redcare GSM there are now other providers of graded notification equipment, usually available at a lower ongoing cost to the clients.

ACS have been installing Intruder Alarms for over 25 years. We are SSAIB recognised which allows us to design and install systems that comply in all respects to EN50131, PD6662 (UK implementation), the ACPO policy & DD243 2004. SSAIB is also recognised by ACPO and Insurance Companies as an acceptable inspectorate body for security systems.

Let us help you design your Intruder Alarm Systems - contact our Sales Engineer

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