

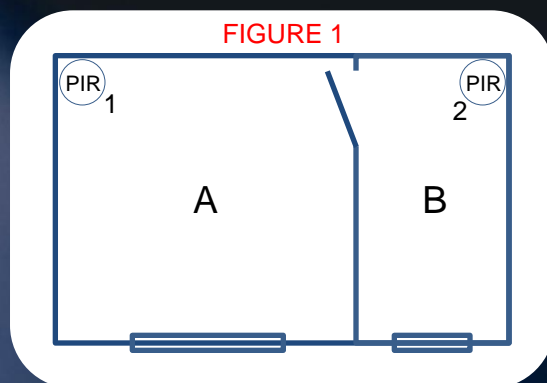
SPOTLIGHT ON Intruder Alarm Sequential Confirmation

The attendance of Police to false alarms is an ongoing problem in the security industry and reduces the credibility of alarm systems. Sequential Confirmation is the most commonly used method to reduce the number of false alarms that the Police have to attend.

What is sequential confirmation

Sequential confirmation is a process by which 2 independent alarm devices on a system have to be activated within a time period (commonly 30 minutes) before police notification can be actioned

Take figure 1 for example, if a burglar breaks into Room A via the window, he will activate PIR 1 within that room but the police will not be notified until he enters Room B and activates PIR 2.



Police Notification vrs Key Holder Notification

The Alarm Receiving Centre will receive notification of an alarm following activation of one PIR and they will be able to contact the keyholder immediately. They will not however contact the police until the alarm has been confirmed.

Police Requirements

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) requires all Intruder Alarm systems with police notification to have alarm confirmation capability.

How many detectors to install

The number of detectors within a system is governed by how far you want to allow an Intruder to be able to travel through a building before achieving a confirmed alarm. If you want to restrict movement to one room, 2 independent detectors would be required within that room.

Vulnerable, high risk rooms e.g. IT suites often require 2 detectors to achieve timely police notification.

Sequential Confirmation and Entry/Exit Routes

An entry/exit route commonly has a contact on the final door and a PIR protecting the space inside the door. It is important to remember that activation of any device on the entry/exit route to the keypad is not counted for the purposes of alarm confirmation.

Sequential Confirmation vrs Double Knock

Sequential confirmation should not be confused with double knock which is a technology that prevents a PIR detector from signalling an alarm until it has been activated on 2 separate occasions within a specific time frame. Double knock is specific to a detector or zone whilst sequential confirmation relates more to the system design.

Sequential confirmation detectors

Specialised sequential confirmation detectors are available that have 2 independent detectors built into 1 housing. These units are easy to install and are more aesthetically pleasing compared to 2 separate detectors.

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