SPOTLIGHT ON
Intruder Alarm Grading

Intruder Alarms are common in buildings to meet insurance company requirements and to protect the building and its contents by detecting unauthorised access. Typically, Intruder Alarms are specified as being Grade 1 to 4, but what does this mean?

Grade 1 is for an installation with a low risk of theft. The property is not likely to attract intruders. It is assumed that a thief is likely to be opportunistic rather than bothering to plan things in advance. It is assumed that an intruder is simply going to break open a door.

Grade 2 is for a slightly higher risk of theft. The property is likely to have something of interest to an experienced thief. In this case the intruder is expected to have some knowledge of how alarm systems work and possibly carry some tools to allow him to overcome a simple alarm system.

Grade 3 is for a reasonably substantial risk property. There is good reason to assume it may be broken into and might well contain objects of high value. An intruder is likely to gain access by penetrating doors, windows or other openings. The thief could be very experienced with intruder alarm systems and possess a number of tools and equipment to overcome the system

Grade 4 is for very high-risk properties. Intruders could be expected to plan a burglary in advance and have the knowledge and equipment to alter parts of the intruder alarm system to prevent detection. It is assumed that the intruder could gain access by penetration of floors, walls and ceilings. The intruder is unlikely to be working alone.

Supplementary Grading

- In addition to the 4 main levels, supplementary grading (A-D) is issued for the type of notification. This is covered in February's Spotlight.

What is the Practical difference between the grades?

- All components within an alarm system must be certified to the required grade. This includes control panels, power supplies and motion detectors etc. An alarm is graded to its lowest graded item of equipment e.g. a grade 3 system with a grade 2 door contact is limited to grade 2.

- A key difference between grades is the type of movement sensors used.   Grade 3 sensors must be able to detect masking i.e. something being placed over the sensor lens. Grade 4 movement sensors should be able to detect range reduction, i.e. something blocking part of the detectors field of view. Other differences relate to P.S.U's and anti tamper protection etc.

Who Decides What Grade?

- As a result of an Office of Fair Trading ruling, the Association of British Insurers stopped insurance companies determining the grade of an alarm system. As a consequence, grades are now determined by Alarm Installation companies following a comprehensive risk assessment.
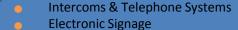
ACS have been installing Intruder Alarms for over 25 years.

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 Matthew Jefferson - 0191 4178882 or sales@alarmcommsys.co.uk

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Security 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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