“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.
Communication Systems
- Intercoms & Telephone Systems
- Electronic Signage
- Radio Printing & 2 way radios
- Nurse Call
- Public Address
- Fire Alarm Voice Evacuation
- Background Music
- Doctor/ Reception/ Patient Call
- Refuge Intercoms
- Queuing Systems

TV/ Radio/ Satellite
- Home Entertainment
- NetworkingVoice / Data Systems
- IRS – TV/Radio/Satellite

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

Security Systems
- Intruder
- Personal / Staff Attack
- CCTV
- Access Control
- Door Automation
- Automatic Gates/ Barriers

Specialist Solutions for: Academies, Schools and Colleges
- Announcements / Class Change Signals
- Projectors and Bulbs
- Sound Systems - portable & fixed
- Special Effects Lighting
- Interactive Whiteboards – SMART & Promethean
- Security & Safety
- Electronic Signage & Messaging TV
- Data & Computer Networks
- Specialist Equipment & Furniture
- Disposal of Redundant Electric/ Electronic Equipment
- Synchronised Time Clocks
- TV & Satellite Systems

Corporate Solutions
- Training Room AV Equipment
- Lecture Theatre AV Equipment
- Boardroom AV Equipment
- Conference Room AV Equipment
- AMX Control Systems
- Electronic Signage & Messaging TV
- Synchronised Clocks

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