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Guidance for the provision of Alarm Transmission Systems (ATS) for Alarm Systems in the UK

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Summary of pages
This document comprises a front cover, and inside front cover, pages i to ii, pages 1 to 11, an inside back cover and a back cover.

Foreword

Publishing information

This Published Document (PD) is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 30 June 2017. It was prepared by Subcommittee GW/1/5, *Transmission equipment and networks*, under the authority of Technical Committee GW/1, *Electronic security systems*. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

Information about this document

Where the alarm transmission system (ATS) performance, in terms of speed and information security, are not considered a high priority, it might still be important to notify an alarm receiving centre (ARC) of the failure of an ATS in a suitable time that allows a response to the failure be requested, ensuring a level of mitigation against any impact of a malicious attack to an ATS. To this end, additional ATS categories, SP3+ and DP2+, are included, with improved reporting times, for use in systems where there is a perceived risk or history of malicious attack.

Presentational conventions

The guidance in this Published Document is presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Any recommendations are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is "should".

Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.

Contractual and legal considerations

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

1 Scope

This Published Document provides guidance and recommendations relating to alarm transmission systems used in association with alarm systems.

NOTE 1 Alarm transmission systems (ATS) provide a means of sending alarm messages (such as fire, intrusion, access control or social alarm) away from the supervised premises to an alarm receiving centre.

This Published Document builds upon the existing BS EN 50136 series for alarm transmission systems by providing additional guidance, such as additional ATS performance categories and actions to be taken when the availability fails to meet the required levels, alongside fitting and installation advice to improve the security and reliability of ATS.

NOTE 2 See Annex A for installation guidance for intruder and hold-up alarm application.

This Published Document also includes recommendations to enable enhanced reporting of dual path failures.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

BS EN 50131-10, *Alarm systems — Intrusion and hold-up systems — Part 10: Application specific requirements for Supervised Premises Transceiver (SPT)*

BS EN 50136-1, *Alarm systems — Alarm transmission systems and equipment — Part 1: General requirements for alarm transmission systems*

3 Terms, definitions and abbreviations

For the purposes of this Published Document the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1 Terms and definitions

3.1.1 alarm management system (AMS)

system which stores, organizes, controls, manages and allows retrieval of client data and is interfaced to alarm receiving equipment for automatic annunciation of messages for each alarm system

3.1.2 catastrophic failure

in a dual path ATS, where failure of the primary ATP is reported and correct operation of the alternative ATP cannot be established within the maximum catastrophic failure reporting time

NOTE 1 See Annex B, Table B.1 for maximum catastrophic failure reporting times.

NOTE 2 If the remaining ATP fails after the reporting time of the primary ATP, a catastrophic failure would not exist.

3.1.3 customer

person or organization utilizing the services of an alarm company

3.1.4 diverse network connection

two or more network interfaces terminating at two or more network providers

NOTE Failure of a single network interface is unlikely to cause both ATPs of a dual path system to fail simultaneously.

