

Australian Standard[®]

**GUIDE TO THE SELECTION AND
APPLICATION OF INTRUDER
ALARM SYSTEMS FOR
DOMESTIC AND BUSINESS
PREMISES**

This Australian standard was prepared by Committee EL/31, Intruder Alarm Equipment and Installations. It was approved on behalf of the Council of the Standards Association of Australia on 13 April 1983, and published on 4 July 1983.

The following interests are represented on Committee EL/31:

Association of Burglary Insurance Surveyors Australasia
Australian Electrical Manufacturers Association
Australian Federal Police
Australian Security Industry Association Limited
Building Owners and Managers Association of Australia Limited
Confederation of Australian Industry
Department of Defence
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PREFACE

This standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Intruder Alarm Equipment and Installations. Because of the wide range of equipment and systems that are available, this standard was prepared to assist non-technical persons to obtain some idea of which type of detector equipment and alarm system is best suited for their application.

Other related physical protection, such as guards, doors, windows and types of locks, is not covered in this standard.

The standard is based on the National Bureau of Standards Special Publication Number 480-14, Selection and Application Guide to Commercial Intrusion Alarm Systems, prepared by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Bureau of Standards' Law Enforcement Standards Laboratory as part of the Technology Assessment Program of the U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice.

This standard attempts to provide information on the major types of intruder alarm systems currently in use. However, it does not purport to be a definitive exposition of all such systems, nor is it intended to convey the impression that every system described will be suitable for use in all locations. While it attempts to discuss the major issues to be taken into account in deciding upon the installation of a particular system, it may not cover all relevant functions peculiar to a particular location. Consequently, reliance solely upon this guide to the exclusion of expert advice is not recommended.

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STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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for

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FOREWORD

Crimes against domestic premises and businesses, small and large, are a commonplace occurrence and security has therefore become an essential in the operation of any business. With the increase in burglary, more and more people are turning to alarm systems for increased protection. The selection of a suitable alarm system is not a simple matter. You are faced with a wide and possibly confusing array of equipment and services which may not give you enough information for your specific needs. This standard, therefore, is intended to provide a means for you to gain a general understanding of intruder alarm systems and their potential use in your premises.

The factors which determine the requirements of an individual alarm system and the questions which must be answered when a system is being selected include the following:

- (a) The threat—what is to be protected against?
- (b) The type of protection—what methods are available?
- (c) The types of detectors—what should be detected?
- (d) The method of alarm transmission—how is the signal sent and who will respond?

The purpose of this standard is to familiarize you with—

- (i) the types of protection that intruder alarm systems can provide;
- (ii) the manner in which they operate, and
- (iii) the characteristics of the various system components as they relate to different applications.

The basic considerations that determine your individual needs are discussed in general terms, thus enabling you more effectively to deal with and understand the services of the many reputable alarm system companies that are ready to serve your needs.

The Standards Association of Australia is continuing to develop performance standards for intruder alarm systems and components (see AS 2201, Part 1 and Part 2). Equipment that complies with the requirements of these individual standards should provide reliable performance.

An intruder alarm may sometimes serve to deter a would-be intruder. However, the primary function of the system is to signal the presence of the intruder. An intruder alarm system is only part of the overall protection needed, and it is important to recognise that the successful operation of a system depends upon not only the system equipment but also upon its proper installation, maintenance, and use.