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Remote centres receiving signals from alarm systems – Code of practice

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Foreword

Publishing information

This British Standard is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 30 April 2014. It was prepared by Subcommittee GW/1/11, *Remote Centres*, 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.

Supersession

Together with BS EN 50518-1:2010, BS EN 50518-2:2010 and BS EN 50518-3:2011¹⁾, this British Standard supersedes BS 5979:2007, which is withdrawn.

Relationship with other publications

This British Standard has been produced following the publication of the BS EN 50518 series of standards, which apply to alarm signals generated from intruder and hold-up alarm systems (I&HAS) only. Alarm signals from other types of alarm systems, i.e. fire, social and closed circuit television systems (CCTV) are not within the scope of the BS EN 50518 series.

BS 5979, *Remote centres receiving signals from fire and security systems – Code of practice*, gives recommendations for the planning, construction and facilities of manned and unmanned remote centres, and for the operation of alarm receiving centres (ARCs) receiving signals from security systems including I&HAS. Consequently, as a result of the publication of the BS EN 50518 series, BS 5979 has been withdrawn.

The withdrawal of BS 5979 has led to the development of this British Standard, which does not include reference to the monitoring of I&HAS and is intended to be used in conjunction with the BS EN 50518 series. However, BS 5979 will continue to be used in relation to ARCs that conform to BS 5979.

Information about this document

This British Standard covers the planning, construction and facilities of manned and unmanned centres, and for the operation of ARCs receiving signals from alarm systems other than I&HAS, e.g. fire, social, CCTV, lone worker devices and vehicle tracking.

This standard was written to ensure that any monitored alarm system which requires a police response should conform to BS EN 50518 in anticipation that the scope of BS 50518 will be widened to encompass a greater range of systems requiring emergency police response. In order not to conflict with BS EN 50518, requirements for Category II ARCs are generally aligned with BS EN 50518. All ARCs monitoring systems not requiring emergency police response have been put into Category I, acknowledging the lesser requirements for integrity and security of construction, communications, operation and information. This has made it less onerous for non-emergency policy response ARCs to meet the requirements of this standard.

The monitoring of fire detection and fire alarm systems has received substantial review from BS 5979. This has been predominately to recognise the changing environment of social fire alarm monitoring, the review of a number of fatal fires and the need to filter calls to avoid false alarms being passed to the Fire and Rescue Services.

¹⁾ The 2013 versions of all three parts of the BS EN 50518 series are currently in preparation.

Use of this document

As a code of practice, this British Standard takes the form of guidance and recommendations. It should not be quoted as if it were a specification and particular care should be taken to ensure that claims of compliance are not misleading.

Any user claiming compliance with this British Standard is expected to be able to justify any course of action that deviates from its recommendations.

Presentational conventions

The provisions of this standard are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its 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.

The word "should" is used to express recommendations of this standard. The word "may" is used in the text to express permissibility, e.g. as an alternative to the primary recommendation of the Clause. The word "can" is used to express possibility, e.g. a consequence of an action or an event.

Notes and commentaries are provided throughout the text of this standard. Notes give references and additional information that are important but do not form part of the recommendations. Commentaries give background information.

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.

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1 Scope

This British Standard gives recommendations for the planning, construction and facilities of manned and unmanned remote centres, and for the operation of alarm receiving centres (ARCs), receiving signals from alarm systems, e.g. fire, social, closed circuit television (CCTV), lone worker and vehicle tracking.

This British Standard excludes receiving signals from intruder and hold-up alarm systems (I&HAS).

NOTE See BS EN 50518 series for the monitoring of I&HAS.

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 476 (all parts), *Fire tests on building materials and structures*

BS 5306-3, *Fire extinguishing installations and equipment on premises – Part 3: Commissioning and maintenance of portable fire extinguishers – Code of practice*

BS 5306-8, *Fire extinguishing installations and equipment on premises – Part 8: Selection and positioning of portable fire extinguishers – Code of practice*

BS 5839-1:2013, *Fire detection and fire alarm systems for buildings – Part 1: Code of practice for design, installation, commissioning and maintenance of systems in non-domestic premises*

BS 6132, *Code of practice for safe operation of alkaline secondary cells and batteries*

BS 6133, *Code of practice for safe operation of lead-acid stationary batteries*

BS 7858, *Security screening of individuals employed in a security environment – Code of practice*

BS 8418, *Installation and remote monitoring of detector activated CCTV systems – Code of practice*

BS 8484:2011, *Provision of lone worker device (LWD) services - Code of practice*

BS EN 3-1:2004+A1:2007, *Portable fire extinguishers – Part 7: Characteristics, performance requirements and test methods*

BS EN 12845, *Fixed firefighting systems – Automatic sprinkler systems – Design, installation and maintenance*

BS EN 13501-2, *Fire classification of construction products and building elements – Part 1: Classification using data from reaction to fire tests*

BS EN 50131-1:2006+A1:2009, *Alarm systems - Intrusion and hold-up systems - Part 1: System requirements*

BS EN 50134-3:2012, *Alarm systems – Social alarm systems – Part 3: Local unit and controller*

BS EN 50272-1, *Safety requirements for secondary batteries and battery installations - Part 1: General safety information*

BS EN 50518-1:2010, *Monitoring and alarm receiving centre – Part 1: Location and construction requirements*

BS EN 50518-2, *Monitoring and alarm receiving centre – Part 2: Technical requirements*