

AWEW/mjc/NSI 006/15

11 March 2015

To: All NSI NACOSS Gold approved companies, NSI Systems Silver approved companies, NACOSS Gold applicants and Systems Silver applicants

Dear Colleague

SECURITY FOG SYSTEMS

The PD 6662:2010 scheme for intruder and hold-up alarm systems (I&HASs) references BS EN 50131-8:2009, *Alarm systems – Intrusion and hold-up systems – Part 8: Security fog device/systems*. You must adhere to this BS EN standard if you supply security fog systems as part of a PD 6662:2010 system. This includes if you use a specialist company to install and/or maintain the security fog system as part of your contract with the customer.

The Scope of BS EN 50131-8:2009 states:

This European Standard specifies the requirements for security fog systems as a part of an I&HAS. It covers application and performance and also gives the necessary tests and trials to ensure efficiency and reliability of such obscuration devices.

This European Standard also gives guidance on the criteria for design, installation, operation and maintenance of security fog systems.

It follows that a security fog system must be part of an I&HAS in order to comply with BS EN 50131-8:2009 and in the UK this means an I&HAS compliant with the BS EN 50131 series under PD 6662.

The provisions of BS EN 50131-8:2009 do not vary according to the grade of I&HAS. This means that a security fog system to BS EN 50131-8:2009 is suitable for use in all grades.

Outputs from the security fog system to the I&HAS include tamper (sub-clause 9.1.1 of BS EN 50131-8:2009 refers). A tamper signal from a security fog system can contribute to a confirmed alarm in accordance with BS 8243:2010.

We draw your attention to Annex C of BS EN 50131-8:2009, *Guidance on design, installation, operation and maintenance of the security fog system*. Although the provisions of Annex C are informative, the guidance is important towards ensuring a suitable risk assessment takes place, the system achieves the agreed objectives, is not configured to form a “man trap”, and all relevant parties are informed. Therefore we expect you to adhere to the guidelines in Annex C in so far as they are relevant to the security fog systems you and/or the specialist company install and maintain.

Your representative must be on site when the connection to the I&HAS is made. This is to determine the correct connection and to assist in any commissioning and testing.

When you issue the NSI Certificate of Compliance for the I&HAS, the Certificate will cover the security fog system as well as the I&HAS. However, you must include details of the security fog system in the as-fitted document along with details of the I&HAS.

The arrangements for maintaining the security fog system must be in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. If the security fog system is maintained by the specialist company, we recommend your representative should be on site when the security fog system is maintained to assist in any testing and to protect your liability in case the I&HAS and/or the security fog system fails to perform correctly at a later date.

Further information is given in the Annex attached to this letter in relation to security fog systems installed and maintained by third parties under separate contract with the customer.

BS EN 50131-8:2009 is available for download from the on-line subscription to British Standards Institution (BSI) standards via the NSI website.

The Checklist and Marking Table for PD 6662:2010 intruder and hold-up alarm systems are downloadable from the approved company area of the NSI website and include the audit requirements for security fog systems.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Yours sincerely



Tony Weeks
Head of Technical Services

ANNEX

SECURITY FOG SYSTEMS INSTALLED BY THIRD PARTIES UNDER SEPARATE CONTRACT

Sometimes a security fog system may be installed and maintained by a third party under a separate contract with the customer outside your control. Then afterwards the customer or the third party seeks your permission to connect to the I&HAS you have installed (or will be installing).

It is your decision whether you agree to connect the security fog system to your I&HAS. However if you agree to the connection you must obtain documented evidence the security fog system complies with BS EN 50131-8 and you must check the evidence is satisfactory. You must check to see if the guidance in Annex C of BS EN 50131-8 has been followed and you must work with the third party on any areas requiring attention.

Note 1: If the security fog system does not comply with BS EN 50131-8 there is a risk the security fog system might not function correctly in terms of generating the right amount of fog and/or there might be a hazard to life (for example due to a “man trap” or use of unsuitable chemicals). Therefore if you go ahead with the connection you may share some of the responsibility for the safe operation of the security fog system in relation to your decision to connect a non-compliant system to the I&HAS.

Note 2: The standard preceding BS EN 50131-8:2009 was BS 7939:1999, which is withdrawn.

Your representative must be on site when the connection to the I&HAS is made. This is to determine the correct connection and to assist in any commissioning and testing.

You must make clear to the customer in writing the NSI Certificate of Compliance for the I&HAS does not include the security fog system. This is on the understanding the security fog system is installed and maintained by a third party under separate contract with the customer.

The as-fitted document can include details about how the I&HAS interacts with the security fog system, for example how and under what circumstances the I&HAS triggers the system to create fog.

The arrangements for maintaining the security fog system must be in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. We recommend your representative should be on site when the security fog system is maintained to assist in any testing and to protect your liability in case the I&HAS and/or the security fog system fails to perform correctly at a later date.