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AWEW/mjc/NSI 010/13

16 August 2013

**To: All NSI NACOSS Gold and Systems Silver approved companies**

Dear Colleague

### **BS 8243:2010 – METHODS OF COMPLETION OF SETTING**

I am writing with regard to some work that British Standards Institution (BSI) has done this year in relation to BS 8243:2010 – "Installation and configuration of intruder and hold-up alarm systems designed to generate confirmed alarm conditions – Code of practice". The work is provisional at this stage pending a formal amendment to BS 8243:2010.

The BSI work has resulted in a proposal that the following paragraph should be deleted from Clause 6.3 of BS 8243:

*If method a), b), c) or d) are used, then the setting procedure should always be a two-stage process of initiating the setting procedure within the supervised premises (e.g. using digital key or other secure means such as a code number) followed by completion of setting by the relevant method.*

The full text of Clause 6.3 of BS 8243:2010 is given in the **ANNEX** attached to this letter for ease of reference.

The requirement for two-stage setting was added to BS 8243 to help reduce false alarms further. By initiating setting within the supervised premises, causing an audible indication to occur, people who might not be known to be on the premises may have time to take steps to avoid a false alarm occurring.

However it is not always possible to include two-stage setting in relation to certain installations such as secure stores, Automated Teller Machine (ATM) protection, high value kiosks, silent hours' delivery and so on. Consequently there are difficulties applying the requirement for two-stage setting to every relevant installation.

On the basis of the BSI proposal, we will not raise deviations for lack of two-stage setting from the date of this letter. However we will review the position when an amended version of BS 8243 is published.

There are circumstances when two-stage setting is not only possible, but also desirable from the point of view of having an orderly method of setting with the aim of minimizing false alarms. Consequently, although we will not be raising deviations, we do still recommend that two-stage setting is used whenever possible and in particular if the method helps to reduce or avoid false alarms.

Yours sincerely

**Tony Weeks**

Head of Technical Services

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## ANNEX

### **Clause 6.3 of BS 8243:2010 - Methods of completion of setting**

Clause 6.3 of BS 8243:2010 contains the following text:

The completion of the full setting procedure should be achieved by one of the following methods:

- a) shunt lock fitted to the final exit door; or
- b) push button switch mounted outside the supervised premises; or
- c) protective switch (i.e. door contact) fitted to the final exit door of the alarmed premises or area; or
- d) digital key; or
- e) in conjunction with an ARC.

If method a), b), c) or d) are used, then the setting procedure should always be a two-stage process of initiating the setting procedure within the supervised premises (e.g. using digital key or other secure means such as a code number) followed by completion of setting by the relevant method.

*NOTE 1 This prohibits the use of a timed exit procedure whereby, following initiation of the setting procedure, the IAS sets after a given time has elapsed. This is because of the possibility of a false alarm if the time is accidentally exceeded.*

If a protective switch (i.e. door contact) is used as the method of completion of setting, then the CIE or ACE should be sited near to the final exit door so that the IAS can be unset promptly and, in the case of IASs configured in accordance with 6.2b), a secondary signal indicating that the IAS has been mis-operated can be generated promptly (for example, if an alarm occurs soon after setting).

If a protective switch (i.e. door contact) is used as the method of completion of setting, a short delay feature should be incorporated within the associated circuitry so that bouncing of the contact upon closure of the door does not give rise to a false alarm.

*NOTE 2 This also allows time for any movement detectors viewing the exit route to revert to their inactive condition.*

Where appropriate, additional internal audible indications should be provided so that persons within a building are informed that the IAS is due to be set. Additional ACE should be provided, where appropriate, so that if the IAS is set there are means available locally within the supervised premises to unset the IAS.

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