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AWEW/mjc/NSI 001/14

30 January 2014

To: All NSI ARC Gold approved companies, CerticCS approved ARCs, and applicants for NSI ARC Gold and/or CerticCS ARC approval

Dear Colleague

ARC APPROVAL TO IRISH STANDARD I.S. 228

I draw your attention to our letter dated 18 October 2013 (Ref: AWEW/mjc/NSI 016/13) relating to Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC) approvals to Irish Standard I.S. 228 or the new European Standard EN 50518 series, which is in three Parts.

According to information we received last year from the Private Security Authority (PSA), the I.S. EN 50518 series was to have been applied from 1 January 2014. Therefore any new ARC approvals after 1 January 2014 would have had to have been against the I.S. EN 50518 series.

It turns out that 1 January 2014 was a provisional date and that there is a little more time for ARCs to apply for approval against I.S. 228 if they wish to do so.

PSA have issued a Public Consultation Document dated January 2014 on the licensing of monitoring centres (with comment deadline 7 February 2014). This document indicates that an organisation who, on 1 July 2014, is a holder of a Private Security Services Licence in the Security Guard (Monitoring Centre) sector may opt to comply with the I.S. EN 50518 series or I.S. 228. Therefore the option for ARCs to apply for approval against I.S. 228 remains open for the time being, but not for very long.

Please note that the option of complying with I.S. 228 applies only if the organisation holds a Private Security Services Licence in the Security Guard (Monitoring Centre) sector on 1 July 2014, and an ARC needs to obtain the approval before it can gain the Licence. Therefore any ARC applications for approval to I.S. 228 should be made as soon as possible in order to maximize the chances of obtaining a Licence by 1 July 2014.

We emphasise that 1 July 2014 is provisional and that the date for obtaining the Licence could be amended as a result of the Public Consultation.

Please note that the Public Consultation Document indicates that an organisation subject to the provisions of I.S. 228 will in any case need to complete a gap analysis against the requirements of EN 50518 and submit the results of that gap analysis to PSA before 1 July 2016 (this date is indicative only).

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Furthermore the Public Consultation Document indicates that the provisions of I.S. 228 shall cease on 1 July 2017 (this date is indicative only) or such time thereafter as the PSA may decide. Therefore it appears that there is a possibility that ARCs approved to I.S.228 may in any case have to upgrade to I.S. EN 50518 in the long run, or not if the PSA chooses not to apply the upgrade.

If you are considering applying for ARC approval against I.S. 228 for monitoring alarm systems installed in Ireland, you should apply for CerticCS ARC approval as soon as possible.

There is no deadline for applying for CerticCS ARC approval against the I.S. EN 50518 series.

For further information and a quotation please contact Deborah Hollingsworth on Tel: +44 (0)1628 764844, Email: Deborah.Hollingsworth@nsi.org.uk, or Sean Mullin on Tel: +44 (0)1628 764838, Email: Sean.Mullin@nsi.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

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