

AWEW/mjc/NSI 008/14

27 June 2014

**To: All NSI ARC Gold approved companies and applicants**

Dear Colleague

**BS 8591:2014 – ALARM RECEIVING CENTRES**

I am pleased to inform you that British Standards Institution (BSI) has published BS 8591:2014 "Remote centres receiving signals from alarm systems – Code of practice".

For further information please refer to our Circular Letter dated 18 November 2013 (NSI Ref. AWEW/mjc/NSI 017/13) on the subject of Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC) approval to British Standard BS 5979 or the BS EN 50518 series of European Standards.

The scope of BS 8591 excludes remote centres (ARCs) receiving signals from intruder and hold-up alarm systems and is complementary to the BS EN 50518 series, which is presently scoped for ARCs receiving signals from intruder and hold-up alarm systems only.

BS 8591 defines two Categories of remote centre (ARC).

- Category I of BS 8591 is for remote centres handling signals from systems not eligible for police response including fire alarm systems, social alarm systems, CCTV systems, lone worker systems and vehicle tracking systems. In broad terms, Category I of BS 8591 is similar to Category I of BS 5979 with some amendments.
- Category II of BS 8591 is for remote centres handling signals from Category I systems and from systems that are eligible for police response including CCTV systems (BS 8418), lone worker systems (BS 8484) and vehicle tracking systems (Thatcham Category 5). In broad terms, Category II of BS 8591 applies the generic requirements of BS EN 50518 (for example construction and facilities) along with some relevant requirements from BS 5979.

The application of BS 8591 enables ARCs built to the BS EN 50518 series to be certificated for all types of alarm monitoring including intruder and hold-up.

The publication of BS 8591 was later than expected, however, and at present we have limited experience of certification to the BS EN 50518 series. Consequently we have reviewed the deadlines given in our Circular Letter of 18 November 2013 for accepting ARC approvals to BS 5979 and we have decided these deadlines are too tight in relation to the current circumstances. Consequently the deadlines have been rescinded.



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Currently we have three options for NSI ARC Gold certification as follows:

- a) BS 5979 (until further notice)
- b) BS 8591 and BS EN 50518 series (all alarms including intruder and hold-up)
- c) BS EN 50518 series (intruder and hold-up alarms only).

This is in addition to BS EN ISO 9001, NSI Quality Schedule SSQS 102 and all other relevant industry standards including BS 7858, BS 8243, BS 8418, BS 8473 and BS 8484.

Please note that option c), certification to the BS EN 50518 series on its own, is limited to ARCs monitoring intruder and hold-up alarms only.

We are keeping matters under review and we will inform you of further progress.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or queries.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Weeks".

**Tony Weeks**  
Head of Technical Services