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To: All NSI Fire Gold and Fire Silver approved and applicant companies

Dear Colleague

UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BS EN 54-23 (VISUAL ALARM DEVICES)

Further to my letter dated 29 May 2013 notifying you of the delay in the implementation of BS EN 54-23:2010, "*Fire detection and fire alarm systems, Part 23: Fire alarm devices – Visual alarm devices*", I can now confirm that from 1 January 2014 all visual alarm devices (VADs) installed to give primary warning of fire to persons in and around buildings (excluding single family dwellings) must meet the requirements of BS EN 54-23.

Guidance on the design, installation, commissioning and maintenance of VADs meeting the requirements of BS EN 54-23 can be found in the joint LPCB/FIA publication "*LPCB/FIA Code of Practice 0001 'Code of Practice for visual alarm devices used for fire warning'*". This document can be downloaded from <http://www.redbooklive.com/pdf/CoP-0001-1-0.pdf>

BS 5839-1:2013, Annex F, includes copies of tables taken from the LPCB/FIA Code of Practice. However, it has been identified that some errors have occurred such that the tables in Annex F contain incorrect data. It is therefore recommended that the tables in Annex A of the LPCB/FIA Code of Practice should be used when designing fire detection and fire alarm systems which include VADs. British Standards Institution is aware of the problem and is currently deciding on what course of action to take in order to rectify the situation in relation to BS 5839-1.

All fire detection and fire alarm systems designed on or after 1 January 2014 must include BS EN 54-23 compliant product where VADs are specified.

Any fire detection and fire alarm systems designed prior to 1 January 2014 can include non-compliant BS EN 54-23 product provided this is done with the agreement of the client and the use of such non-compliant product is documented as a variation.

I hope the above is self explanatory and please do not hesitate to contact me if have any questions or queries.

Yours sincerely

John Davidson
Fire Schemes Manager



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