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

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Publication of BS 8418:2021 - Design, installation, commissioning and maintenance of detection-activated video surveillance systems (VSS) – Code of practice

BS 8418:2021 - Design, installation, commissioning and maintenance of detection-activated video surveillance systems (VSS) - Code of practice is now published.

This Code of Practice has undergone a full revision. Prescription that provided a barrier to product innovation and adoption of the code by VSS installers has been removed, requirements for two types of system are contained within the code, some clauses have been rephrased to add clarity and some requirements within clauses have been moved to more appropriate clauses.

The key changes to the Code of Practice includes:

- the simplification of the technical requirements of the standard with the introduction of a tiered approach as follows:
 - Type A (base recommendations);
 - Type A+ (enhanced recommendations for higher risk sites).
- the removal of the RVRC (ARC) recommendations as these have been moved to another standard (BS 9518).

Text colour scheme within this document

Descriptions of new or amended clauses of BS 8418:2021 are given in italics and the following colour scheme is used to denote which are new and which are amended:

Where descriptions denote new clauses, these are represented by Green italics.

Where descriptions denote amended clauses, these are represented by Blue italics.

Please also note that this Technical Bulletin is not a definitive list of all the changes introduced in BS 8418:2021; only significant changes are listed.

Implementation timescale for approved and applicant companies

BS 8418:2021 has been published and will be effective from the 31st July 2021. There will be a 12-month transition period ending on the 31st July 2022. During this period, installations can comply with either the 2015 or 2021 edition. Companies will be able to transition to the 2021 edition at any point during this 12-month period.

Title

The title of the Standard has been changed from "Installation and remote monitoring of detector-activated CCTV systems. Code of practice" to "Design, installation, commissioning and maintenance of detector-activated video surveillance systems (VSS). Code of practice".

Foreword

This clause has been amended to detail key changes to the Standard and specify a 12-month transition period (the 2015 edition will be withdrawn on the 31st July 2022).

Introduction

This clause has been reworded to provide clarity and introduce a new Standard, BS 9518, dedicated to alarm handling by an ARC.

The clause now defines the key differences between a Type A and A+ system in the new Table 1.

1 Scope

References to alarm handling have been removed from this clause as remote alarm handling requirements are now covered in BS 9518.

Type A & Type A+ tiers are introduced in this clause.

2 Normative references

This clause has been amended; BS EN 62676-4:2015 is now the only Standard referenced.

3.1 Terms and definitions

3.1.2 activation delay procedure

This clause has been deleted.

3.1.3 alert

This clause has been deleted.

3.1.8 CCTV system

This clause has been deleted.

3.1.9 closed site

This clause has been deleted.

3.1.7 detection device

This clause has been reworded to provide clarity.

3.1.15 dormant period

This clause has been deleted.

3.1.16 event

This clause has been deleted.

3.1.21 initial activation

This clause has been deleted.

3.1.22 isolation

This clause has been deleted.

3.1.26 parked position

This is a new definition.

3.1.29 receiver

This clause has been deleted.

3.1.30 remote device

This clause has been deleted.

3.1.20 reporting time

This is a new definition.

3.1.34 semi-wired detector

This clause has been deleted.

3.1.42 wireless detector

This clause has been deleted.

3.1.30 video surveillance system (VSS)

This is a new definition.

3.1.31 VSS company

This is a new definition.

3.2 Abbreviated terms

This clause has been amended to reflect the content of the Standard.

4.1 Threat assessment and risk analysis

This clause has been rephrased to include detail for consideration and inclusion in a risk assessment.

4.2 Operational requirement (OR)

Reference to BS EN 62676-4 is now a note. Further requirements for inclusion in the operational requirements are now included in Annex B.

4.6.1 Activation performance

This clause has been deleted.

4.6.3.1 Detector omission

This clause has been deleted. All clauses relating to alarm monitoring have been removed and are now included in the new alarm handling standard BS 9518.

4.6.4 Detector isolation

This clause has been deleted. All clauses relating to alarm monitoring have been removed and are now included in the new alarm handling standard BS 9518.

5.1 Detection device selection, positioning and configuration

Three clauses from the previous edition of BS 8418 have been simplified and consolidated into one clause.

Loss of communication for wireless and semi-wired detectors must now be indicated to the user whilst setting the system rather than within 20 minutes of the failure as required by the 2015 edition of the Standard.

Note 3 is new and outlines the benefits of connecting detection devices to an intruder alarm control panel.

5.2 Camera positioning and configuration

This clause has been simplified and all references to control equipment have been moved to clauses relating to control equipment.

5.3 Illumination

This clause has been simplified.

5.4 Audio challenge

This clause now specifies that, where installed, audio challenge facilities should be clearly audible, without undue distortion, and within the area of coverage of the relevant detection as indicated in the system design proposal.

5.5.1 Data transmission system – General

This clause now includes a new requirement to assess the Impact of both physical and cyber security and implement any necessary protection.

5.5.2 Data transmission system - Type A+ system

This clause is new and specifies a minimum reporting time for a Type A+ system of 10 minutes.

5.6 Fault recognition

Table 2 now illustrates requirements for the recognition and indication of specific fault conditions for each system type.

5.7 Video integrity

This clause has been simplified.

5.8 Control equipment integrity

This clause now specifies requirements for each type of system with a type A+ system required to include more stringent security than is required for a type A system.

5.9 Event log at the supervised premises

This clause has been simplified with faults now grouped in Table 2.

There is no longer a requirement for a minimum number of events to be stored in the event log.

5.10 Power Supplies

This clause has been simplified and now specifies requirements for each of the two system types.

5.11 Setting and unsetting

This clause has been simplified and much of the prescriptive methodology has been removed.

6.1 Wiring, cabling and connections

This clause has been simplified.

6.2 Tamper detection/security

This clause and Table 3 have been simplified and now specify requirements for each of the two system types.

6.3 Detection

This clause now includes a new list for the positioning of detection equipment.

6.4 Cameras

This clause is new.

6.5 Control equipment

This clause has been simplified and rephrased.

7 Response plan

This clause has been amended.

8.1 Inspection, functional testing and commissioning – General

This clause has been amended.

8.2 Inspection, functional testing and commissioning - Checklist

This clause has been amended.

8.3 Handover

This clause has been simplified.

8.4 As-fitted document

This clause now specifies new requirements for locally stored images to be compared with RVRC images during each preventative maintenance.

9 Documentation and records

This clause has been amended.

10.1 Maintenance agreement and routine visits

This clause now specifies that preventative maintenance should be carried out on site and the maintenance agreement must include callout response times.

10.2 VSS company maintenance engineer actions

This clause has been amended as follows:

An engineer must inform the RVRC that a maintenance will be taking place as soon as they arrive on site.

Any site layout changes that affect operation of the VSS must be determined.

Cameras should be cleaned and brackets must be checked and re-secured where required.

Control equipment must be checked if they have the latest patches and firmware and updated as required.

A full check for the correct transmission to the RVRC from all devices must be carried out.

Annex B (normative) - Contents of the operational requirements (OR) document

This annex is new and specifies requirements for entry into the operational requirements (OR) document.

Annex E (normative) - Information to be included in the system design proposal (SDP)

This annex is new and specifies requirements for entry into the system design proposal (SDP).

Annex G (normative) - Checklist criteria for the commissioning of a detection-activated VSS

This annex was Annex E and now contains a consolidated commissioning checklist which is aligned to requirements in the 2021 edition of BS 8418.