

# Church Roof Alarms - general guidelines



**A roof alarm should either comply with the Security Systems and Alarms Installation Board (SSAIB) Code of Practice (SS2004) for temporary alarm systems (TAS) – at its described ‘Enhanced’ performance level - or meet the following basic functions:**

## **Alarm company**

The system shall be designed, installed and maintained (under a contract for emergency and, at least annual, preventative maintenance) by a company listed by either the SSAIB, the National Security Inspectorate (NSI) or a company otherwise approved by Aviva.

## **System functions**

The roof alarm system shall include a means to operate the system (set / unset), a means of detecting an unauthorised person, a means of processing the information and a means to transmit activations to an Alarm Receiving Centre (Remote Notification). Audible site warning devices may also be provided (Local Notification).

## **Environmental classification**

The environmental class of each component should be determined by the environmental conditions in which the component is expected to operate. Movement detectors/ motion viewers for outdoor use need to meet Environmental Class III, as per BS EN 50131-1.

## **Functional requirements**

- a. For detection devices using wire-free interconnections, the detector battery should be monitored and a signal transmitted via the Control Equipment to the Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC) indicating that battery power is low.
- b. Systems must include a means of detecting that a detector has been moved from its designated mounting position i.e. anti tamper technology.

## Area coverage

The main roof areas consisting of lead or copper sheets need to be covered by detection devices.

## Control equipment

Control equipment forming part of a roof alarm should where possible be in an alarm protected area that does not form part of an Entry/Exit route and needs to include the following mandatory attributes:

- a. Include a means to detect attack on the equipment and removal from its mounting
- b. Be connected to the remote setting/unsetting control unit
- c. Provide a secure method of setting / unsetting plus indication to users that setting / unsetting has been successfully completed
- d. Include a means of reliably providing Remote Notification to an ARC.

## Remote Notification

Is to be provided to an NSI or SSAIB listed Alarm Receiving Centre by:

- a. Radio based technology such as GSM or GPRS systems; OR
- b. By telecoms landline, e.g. PSTN or IP, if a suitable reliable connection is available; OR
- c. A combination of a and b

Remote Notification products / systems used to connect the control equipment to the ARC must be suitably monitored (e.g. via polling) to enable a failure of one, or both communication links to be detected and reported to the ARC within a maximum time period of 12 hours.

## Response to roof alarm

Should be provided by either the client's own trained staff or a third party service provider, e.g. a guarding or commercial response company listed by SSAIB or NSI & / or holding the Security Industry Authority (SIA) Approved Contractor Scheme (ACS) status.

If a guarding or response company are used they should be NSI or SSAIB listed and be likely to be able to respond to a notified activation / fault relating to the roof alarm within 90 minutes.

**Note:** all employees of a third party guarding/response company should by law hold an appropriate Security Industry Authority licence.

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