Security First (UK)

Confirmation Technology –DD243: 2002
New Code of Practice for Monitored Intruder Alarm Systems

This is an important document and should be read and fully understood prior to the acceptance of any Monitored intruder alarm specification.

The New Policy
July 1 2002 saw the introduction of the latest revision of UK intruder alarm legislation, compiled by ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) entitled DD: 243. It pertains to "alarm confirmation technology"; it affects how your system operates and how the Police respond to alarm signals.

All new intruder alarm systems must incorporate "confirmation technology". This means that an intruder alarm activation must be confirmed by a secondary detector reporting the intrusion otherwise the Police will not respond.

The Explanation
If an intruder breaks into the front room (lounge) via the front bay window then the movement detector in that room will activate, the sirens will sound and the system will send a burglary signal to the Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC).

If the burglar then exits the premises without entering another protected area thereby not tripping a second detector, the ARC will have received only one burglary signal, and will not be allowed to inform the Police.

The ARC will only be permitted to contact the registered keyholders in this instance.

However, if an intruder breaks into the lounge, activates the detector and then progresses through other areas of the premises, activating therefore more than one detector, the ARC will receive a second "confirmed" burglary signal and the Police will be called (as well as keyholders).

The time window between the first and second activation must be no more than thirty minutes. If a second burglary signal is received at the ARC after the thirty-minute time frame has expired then that second signal will be taken as if it were the first signal and not as a confirmed report of a burglary.

The ARC must wait 120 seconds from receipt of activation before they contact Police or keyholders in order to give the User time to reset the system in the case of an accidental false alarm. The ARC will attempt to contact the premises prior to calling the keyholders or Police (in the event of a confirmed alarm).

Different Options
The above type of confirmation technology is called SEQUENTIAL, which is the most common used. There are various options for Sequential Confirmation. For example:

Two standard passive infrared movement detectors can be installed in a room as long as there are no overlapping areas of coverage. If the beams overlap at any point one of the detectors will have to be substituted for a different technology in order to comply. Therefore, in this instance a standard passive infrared movement detector will be combined with a dual technology detector.

A different option would be to have vibration detectors or magnetic contacts on the front bay windows to trigger the first activation, with the confirmed alarm signal to be triggered from the internal passive infrared detector once the burglar has entered the lounge.

Apart from Sequential Confirmation, Audio and Video Verification can be used in confirmation technology. Unfortunately, for domestic and small commercial applications, they are not practical or cost effective.

Conclusion

In summary, if an alarm system is installed in the conventional way with a detector located in all the common places, and if a burglar enters and exits through the same route thereby triggering only one detector, the system will not generate a confirmed alarm.

In such circumstances only a keyholder will be notified and not the Police. It is therefore of paramount importance that keyholders understand that if the Police have not attended then they should enter with extreme caution and only after conducting an external perimeter search for signs of tampering or a break-in.

We have compiled a safety guideline for keyholder response that is available in your pack and on request.

Activations by deliberately operated devices such as panic buttons will generate a Police response as normal.

New Regulations for Arming and Disarming the System

The new legislation stipulates that opening the initial entry door disables all means of confirmation. This means that if an intruder forced open your front door the entry timer will start. Once the timer has expired the alarm will sound but the Police will not be called even if the intruder further enters the property and activates more than one detector.

If the intruder's first point of entry is through the designated front door the only way to qualify for a Police response is for your method of disarming to be achieved by a portable ACE remote fob. If ACE is programmed as being used on your system, a sequentially confirmed alarm can occur if two (or more) independent detectors located off the entry route are activated once the entry time has expired. "Entry route" detectors are those which are disabled when the entry timer starts, such as a hall detector. The reason for this is that most false Police call-outs are due to Users forgetting their codes, or entering them incorrectly.