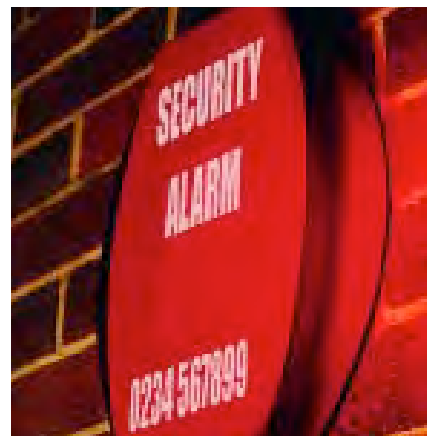


# Designing in security



The benefits of designing in security measures at the construction phase, or during a refurbishment exercise, include improved protection through enhanced efficiency and effectiveness of systems. Alex Carmichael, Technical and Membership Service Director of the British Security Industry Association, describes how this can be achieved and reveals some of the advantages available

One of the beneficial side effects of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) has been to focus minds on the issue of improving the integration of systems, including security measures, as part of an overall building design. Building Regulations include the issue of accessibility and a balance needs to be struck between security systems that provide adequate and appropriate levels of protection, but also ensuring accessibility and convenience of movement.

A holistic approach towards site protection, starting with a proper risk assessment, will pay long-term dividends by properly and cost-effectively securing staff, visitors, buildings, stock and assets. The alternative, involving a piecemeal application of various protective solutions, compromises their effectiveness and fails to realise the steadily increasing operational potential of systems provided by BSIA member companies. It's also often comparatively expensive to install equipment as a more random afterthought, instead of planning this element into the design stage.

Put simply, the best means of getting the most from systems such as CCTV surveillance, access control equipment, intruder alarm devices, perimeter detection and physical security is to firstly ensure that they meet the risks involved – determined by both the nature of the site involved and its

location. Threats including vandalism, theft and arson vary, depending on whether a facility is within a dense, urban environment or a more remote out-of-town area.

## HEALTH & SAFETY DEMANDS

Besides protecting their insurance premiums, organisations need to comply with health and safety legislation including the Occupiers' Liability Act 1984, which places a common 'duty of care' on the owners and managers of buildings that extends to everyone on the premises, including members of staff, visitors, contractors and members of the public. A formal risk assessment must be completed by all organisations employing more than five people.

The next step in the specification process is to interface the appropriately selected equipment to both play to their own strengths and work in a complementary way that ensures the overall effect is greater than the sum of its parts. In practical terms, surveillance cameras integrated with access control systems such as proximity tag readers or swipe card units can allow the CCTV recording of anyone entering through a door, turnstile or barrier. This allows reception or security staff to monitor who's coming through in real-time and saves on unnecessary picture recording of these areas when nothing is happening – allowing the surveillance of other parts of the building during these periods.

Starting at the perimeter, the progress of would-be intruders can also be deterred

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completely or slowed down by security systems working in harmony, allowing more time for their presence to be detected and a police, private security or keyholder response to be summoned. Thus, for example, electronically alarmed and monitored fencing allied with detector-activated lighting, infra-red movement detectors and day/night CCTV cameras capable of monitoring around the clock can operate in combination to defeat criminal activity and prevent losses occurring.

Remote, unmanned sites or premises left unmanned out-of-hours, such as educational facilities, are particularly vulnerable.

The BSIA brought together police and insurance representatives to help produce a British Standard on detector-activated CCTV to address this problem. BS 8418-compliant systems can now apply for police response to a confirmed incident in the same way as conventional intruder alarms. Operators manning remote video receiving centres are alerted through detector activation to someone's presence on-site and can use audio equipment such as loudspeakers to warn them they're being observed using the surveillance cameras. This action alone often prevents problems escalating into a full-blown incident.

