



European Standards
– timetable for change

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The implementation of European Standards for intruder alarms started on the 1st October 2005. Whilst the UK industry is now working to these standards, the complete suite has not been published and some of the “standards” are only technical specifications and will need to be revised after two years. Consequently change still lies ahead. This is a simple guide to the timetable for change.

Where are we now?

The UK industry is currently using a “scheme” document that calls up the European Standards (EN) or Technical Specifications (TS) where they had been published. Where there is not a European standard published the relevant British Standard (BS) or part of a British Standard was used. The scheme document was given the designation PD 6662:2004 - Scheme for the application of European Standards for intruder and hold-up alarm systems.

PD6662 “freezes” the standards in time, which means that no matter what other parts of the European intruder alarm standards suite are published they will not be implemented in the UK until PD6662 is amended. This stability to a fast changing suite of standards is necessary for the industry to operate effectively.

A number of the European Technical Specifications (technical specifications covering components like detector, panel, etc.) have been published, but have not yet been incorporated into PD 6662. BSIA manufacturers have produced their own interpretation guidelines to these technical specifications, and they can be downloaded, free of charge, from the BSIA website at www.bsia.co.uk/download.html

Timetable for change

So what changes can you expect to PD 6662 in the near future? The main proposals are split into two parts:

1. An immediate change to PD 6662 to incorporate the wire free product requirements (BS EN 50131-5-3). This is because the main installation standard (EN 50131-1) sets out wire free system requirements, but the industry cannot use current British wire free standards, (BS 6799 or DD 244) for products as they do not give the required technical information. The European standard (BS EN 50131-5-3) is required to ensure that wire free products meet the necessary technical specifications.
2. A change to PD 6662 in October 2006 that will incorporate the CIE (panel) and detector technical specifications for PIR, Microwave, PIR and Microwave dualtec, PIR and Ultrasound dualtec and opening contacts.

The European technical committees are working on the other detector standards (i.e. acoustic, active IP, etc), warning device standards, revisions to power supply standards, etc. BUT it is expected that the majority of this work will be completed in the next 2-3 years. It is important to note that 28 countries are involved in producing/agreeing to these so it is not a straight forward process. As the European standards are published, the scheme document PD 6662 should get smaller as its various clauses and annexes are replaced by these standards until it is no longer required.