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**BS 8473:2018**



**BSI Standards Publication**

**Intruder and hold-up alarm systems –  
Management of false alarms –  
Code of practice**

**bsi.**

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<b>CONTENTS</b>		<b>Page</b>
	<b>Foreword</b>	<b>ii</b>
1	Scope	1
2	Normative references	1
3	Terms and definitions	1
4	System design	4
5	Administration	4
6	Documentation and training	5
7	Statistics relating to remotely notified I&HAS	6
8	False alarm management procedure	6
9	Diagnosis of false alarms	6
10	Restoring of remote notification I&HASs capable of policed alarm conditions	7
<b>Annex A</b>	<b>(informative) Typical steps in the transmission and filtering of alarm conditions</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Annex B</b>	<b>(informative) Progress of an alarm condition</b>	<b>12</b>
	<i>Figure B.1 — I&amp;HAS not capable of generating confirmed alarms</i>	12
	<i>Figure B.2 — I&amp;HAS capable of generating confirmed alarms</i>	13
<b>Annex C</b>	<b>(informative) Examples of false alarms</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Annex D</b>	<b>(normative) Preventing false alarms: points to remember</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Annex E</b>	<b>(normative) Hold-up alarms and hold-up alarm confirmation</b>	<b>17</b>
	<i>Table E.1 — Guidelines to avoid false activations</i>	17
<b>Annex F</b>	<b>(informative) Corrective maintenance report form</b>	<b>19</b>
	<i>Figure F.1 — Model form for recording corrective maintenance</i>	19
<b>Annex G</b>	<b>(normative) Recommendations for the recording of remotely notified alarm conditions</b>	<b>20</b>
	<i>Figure G.1 — Flow diagram illustrating the compilation of monthly reports on remotely notified alarm conditions</i>	21
	<i>Figure G.2 — Model form for recording remotely signalled/notified alarm conditions</i>	22
<b>Annex H</b>	<b>(normative) Attendance on false alarms</b>	<b>23</b>
	<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>25</b>

### Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, and inside front cover, pages i to ii, pages 1 to 25, an inside back cover and a back cover.

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## Foreword

### **Publishing information**

This British Standard BS 8473:2018 is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 31 October 2018. It was prepared by Subcommittee GW/1/2, *Installed Alarm Systems* under the authority of Technical Committee GW/1, *Electronic Security Systems*. A list of organizations represented on these committees can be obtained on request to its secretary.

### **Supersession**

This British Standard BS 8473:2018 supersedes BS 8473:2006+A2:2013, which is withdrawn.

### **Information about this document**

BS 8473 has been drawn up to assist all parties in the management of false alarms.

False alarms are responsible for absorbing a disproportionate level of resources of the police, the alarm industry, clients and users, and it is in the interests of those concerned that all parties seek to reduce their false alarms to a minimum.

This new edition includes updates to the citations to other standards which have been revised/created since BS 8473:2006+A2:2013 was published.

### **Presentational conventions**

The provisions of this standard are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its requirements are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is "shall".

*Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.*

Requirements in this standard are drafted in accordance with *Rules for the structure and drafting of UK standards*, subclause J.1.1, which states, "Requirements should be expressed using wording such as: 'When tested as described in [Annex A](#), the product shall ...". This means that only those products that are capable of passing the specified test will be deemed to conform to this standard.

### **Contractual and legal considerations**

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

**Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.**

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## 1 Scope

This British Standard gives guidance on the management of intruder and hold-up alarm systems (I&HAS), and the management of alarm conditions when they occur in order to reduce the nuisance factor and waste of resources in responding to false alarms.

This document applies to all remotely notified intruder and hold-up alarm systems and also applies to audible only intruder and hold-up alarm systems, except where otherwise stated.

## 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

BS 5979, *Code of practice for remote centres receiving signals from security systems*

BS 8243:2010+A1:2014, *Installation and configuration of intruder and hold-up alarm systems designed to generate confirmed alarm conditions — Code of Practice*

BS 9263, *Intruder and hold-up alarm systems — Commissioning, maintenance and remote support — Code of practice*

BS EN 50131-1:2006+A2:2017, *Alarm systems — Intrusion and hold-up systems — Part 1: System requirements*

BS EN 50518, *Monitoring and alarm receiving centre (all parts)*

PD 6662, *Scheme for the application of European Standards for intruder and hold-up alarm systems*

DD 243:2004, *Installation and configuration of intruder alarm systems designed to generate confirmed alarm conditions — Code of practice*

DD 263:2010, *Intruder and hold-up systems — Commissioning, maintenance and remote support — Code of Practice*

DD CLC/TS 50131-7, *Alarm systems — Intrusion systems — Part 7: Application guidelines*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this British Standard, the terms and definitions given in BS EN 50131-1, PD 6662 and the following apply.

*NOTE* [Annex A](#) illustrates use of a number of the terms defined. Explanatory diagrams illustrating the relationship between some of the terms defined are shown in [Annex B](#).

### 3.1 alarm company

organization which provides services for I&HAS

### 3.2 alarm condition

condition of an I&HAS, or part thereof, which results from the response of the system to the presence of a hazard

### 3.3 alarm filtering

procedure whereby remotely notified alarm conditions are intentionally delayed at an ARC and their status reviewed for the purpose of cancelling certain remotely notified alarm conditions, where such cancellation is authorized by the user of the I&HAS