



**Digital Communication Standard -
Ademco ® Contact ID Protocol -
for Alarm System
Communications**

SIA DC-05-1999.09

Sponsor
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FOREWORD

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Decisions to modify this protocol are at the sole discretion of Ademco, and Ademco reserves the right to deny requests. When a decision is made regarding a request for modification, Ademco will notify the requestor. Whenever a modification is made to this protocol, Ademco will inform SIA so that SIA may update this document and notify other interested parties. Ademco may, at its discretion, also maintain a current list of Event Codes for this protocol on its web site: <http://www.ademco.com>

Written requests for interpretations of this standard and other matters of document publication should be addressed to:

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This document was developed by Richard Hinkson of *the ADEMCO Group, a division of Pittway Corporation*.

The Ademco "Contact ID" protocol has become a prevalent and respected format for digital communications between security alarm systems and central monitoring stations. Many manufacturers have adopted it, seeking industry wide compatibility.

SIA gratefully acknowledges Ademco's generous contribution to communications in the security industry, both in allowing SIA to publish this protocol as a de facto security industry standard and in accepting industry requests for modifications.

REVISION HISTORY

The following are changes made to this document, listed by revision.

SEPTEMBER 1999 BASELINE

Original Publication

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Digital Communication Standard - Ademco ® Contact ID Protocol - for Alarm System Communications

1. SCOPE

This standard details the specification for the "Ademco ® Contact ID" communication format, originally developed by the Ademco Group, a division of Pittway Corporation.

The purpose of this standard is to detail the Contact ID signaling format such that it can be adopted by any manufacturer of digital transmitters or receivers. Documentation and distribution of this communication format is intended to provide an across-the-board compatibility of equipment designed to this standard regardless of manufacturer.

This communications format utilizes standard DTMF tones for transmission of the information.

1.1 Objectives

- a) Provide information regarding events that are occurring on a customer's premises. This information should be in a form that can easily be interpreted by a central station operator.
- b) Spend minimum practical time on line per transaction, to minimize the number of receivers required to handle the traffic and minimize the

time the line is seized and not available to the customer.

- c) Minimize the transmission error rate
- d) Minimize the cost of the hardware associated with the transmission of the information

2. CONVENTIONS AND DEFINITIONS

2.1 Conventions

2.1.1 Units of Measurement.

In accordance with SIA Policy, the units of measurements used throughout this publication are the units of the System International d' Unites (SI), commonly known as metric units. Equivalent English Units, enclosed in parenthesis, are also used in this publication. These equivalent English Units are approximate conversions and are provided for easy reference.

2.1.2 Tolerances

Unless otherwise specified, the tolerance for measurements specified within this standard shall be 10 percent ($\pm 10\%$).

2.1.3 Special Capitalization.