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For more information about risk assessment, please download the companion publication to this one from our website: **EN 50131: Risk assessment and grading – An introductory guide**

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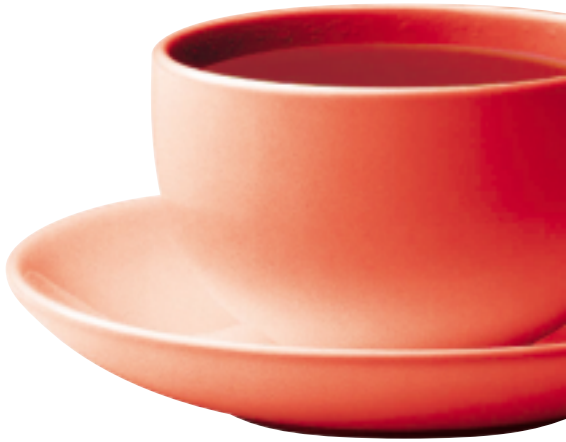
EN 50131:

A guide to the new Standards



Information for installers

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redcare guide to the new EN 50131 Standards

The long-awaited EN 50131 Standards for intruder alarm systems come into force on 1 October 2005. From that date onwards, BS 4737 and any other conflicting British Standards will no longer be valid.

Worried? You shouldn't be. As with anything new, it might all sound a bit complicated to start off with but as you'll soon find, quite a lot of the new requirements are already established practices in the UK.

So if you understand BS 4737 you shouldn't have any trouble in making the transition to the new EN Standards – particularly if you start by reading this short guide from **redcare**.

It's designed to help you get to grips with the new Standards – and also to help you and your business get the best – and make the most – of the opportunities the changes will bring. In the pages that follow we explain:

- What the new Standards are – and the main differences between them and the BS Standards you've been working with
- What the new Standards mean to your business
- How you can use the new Standards to grow your business
- How signing up to **redcare**'s business partner programme can equip you with all the tools you need.

What are the new European Standards? A brief introduction

A series of European Standards for intruder and hold-up alarms – known as EN 50131 – are being produced to replace a number of British Standards. The aim is to make the Standards better structured and universally applicable across the European Union.

Some of the Standards have already been published, others are still in draft form and some still require development.

To overcome any gaps during the development and implementation of the new Standards, the UK has produced a scheme document which is known as **PD 6662:2004 Scheme for the application of European Standards for intruder and hold-up alarm systems.** This means that UK installations will be compliant to PD 6662:2004.

This is a significant document that's intended to enable the European Standards and draft Standards to be introduced and implemented in a controlled and consistent manner in the UK. This means it is vital reading for everyone working in the electronic security systems industry and particularly installation companies, manufacturers, inspectorates, insurance companies, specifiers and system users.

PD 6662:2004 describes which intruder and hold-up alarm system Standards and versions should be applied to the design, specification, planning, installation, commissioning, operation and maintenance of intruder and hold-up alarm systems. It's designed to help you ensure that the systems you install from 1 October 2005 will be done in accordance with the published European Standards, the draft European Standards and the Technical Specifications. It also provides appendices with supplementary provisions concerning aspects not included in the European Standards.

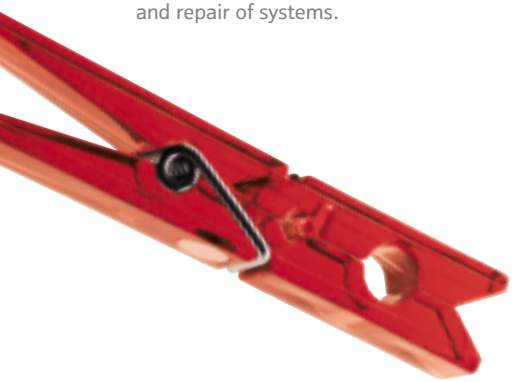
The European Standards themselves are contained in a series of documents some of which apply to manufacturers and others to installation companies. The separation of manufacturer and installer requirements is useful because, depending on your area of activity, you only require the Standards that are applicable to your own discipline. The main documents are:

- System Requirements: prEN 50131-1:2004
- Application Guidelines: DD CLC/TS 50131-7:2003
- Detectors
- Control Equipment
- Warning Devices
- Interconnections
- Power Supplies
- Alarm Transmission Systems

It's the first two in this list that are of most importance to installers and are available now – so here's an outline of what they contain:

System Requirements prEN 50131-1:2004
This – as its name suggests – specifies the performance requirements for installed intruder and hold-up alarm systems. In a nutshell it states what the system should consist of and how it should function. It covers: the functional requirements and operation of systems; indication requirements; notification for alarm transmissions; tamper security for the various grades of system; equipment interconnections; the marking/identification of equipment; and documentation requirements.

Application Guidelines DD CLC/TS 50131-7:2003
This document defines risk assessment considerations, system design proposal requirements and the installation and planning of the system. It also provides detailed requirements for the inspection, functional testing, commissioning, operation, maintenance and repair of systems.



So what are the main differences between BS 4737 and the new EN Standards?

As we've already said, the purpose of the new Standards is to take a more structured approach. This has resulted in 3 big differences between the old Standards and the new: they require an evaluation of risk, they define system grades and they impose equipment classifications – like this:

'Risk assessment': the essential starting point
As you may already have heard, the thing that really makes the new EN Standards different is a move towards a 'risk-based' approach – meaning that from now on you'll need to conduct and formally record a risk assessment of a customer's premises and security needs before you propose and install the best system design with adequate detection. This will involve:

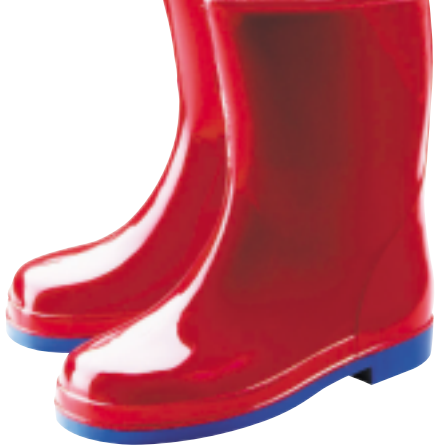
- Assessing and evaluating risk
- Gathering the correct information
- Understanding the customer's and the insurance company's requirements.

A risk assessment should consider all the possible risks at the premises. There is no one particular method for conducting a risk assessment. It's necessary however to ensure that all the risks are considered and the system designed is suitable to protect those risks. You'll find the issues that should be considered covered in the document Application Guidelines DD CLC/TS 50131-7:2003.

You can also find out much more about this key aspect of the new Standards by going to www.**redcare**.bt.com/security/installers/risk_ment.htm and downloading a copy of the **redcare** Guide to Risk Assessment and Grading – the companion guide to this one.

Every system is graded by 'risk'
All intruder and hold-up alarm systems will be graded according to the level of risk assessed. The grade will take into account – for example – the contents at risk, the building construction and location, the occupancy of the premises, theft history, minimum supervision levels (type of detection required), type of alarm transmission system required, tampering of equipment and the interconnections used.

The grade of a system can be determined by any one of a number of people: the intruder alarm company surveyor, the customer, the architect, an insurer or another interested party.



In most cases it's likely to be the intruder alarm company surveyor who makes the decision on the grade of a system as insurance companies are unlikely to have the available resource to be involved on all system design proposals. However, in high-risk cases, the insurer will almost certainly be involved in specifying the grade of system.

There will be 4 grades:

- **Grade 1:** Low risk
- **Grade 2:** Low to medium risk
- **Grade 3:** Medium to high-risk
- **Grade 4:** High-risk where security takes precedence over all other factors.

All system components are classified by 'environmental performance'
System components will also be classified, according to the kind of environment they're designed to work in. This should prove very useful as you'll immediately have a far clearer idea of what components you should choose for a particular location – with the end result that false alarms from movement detectors should be significantly reduced in future.

There will be 4 classifications:

- **Class 1:** Indoors controlled temperature. For general use in residential or commercial premises where temperature is well maintained

- **Class 2:** Indoors uncontrolled. For use in hallways, corridors or where condensation occurs on windows and in unheated storage areas or properties where heating is intermittent

- **Class 3:** Outdoors sheltered. For use outdoors where the components are not fully exposed to the weather

- **Class 4:** Outdoors general. For use outdoors where components are fully exposed to the weather.

DD 243? It's still in force

It's important to note that in addition to the European Standards you'll still need to apply DD 243:2004 to installations that signal to an Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC) and require a police response.

You should be aware that the new revision of DD 243:2004 includes important additional information that must be included in the system design proposal. It's also made significant changes to the installation of systems, in particular the introduction of a single set period of up to a maximum of 96 hours for Transmission Fault Signals.

The question of qualifications

You'll find that the new Application Guidelines state that persons responsible for risk assessment and the design, installation, maintenance and repair of intruder alarm systems should hold appropriate qualifications.

However at present there's no clearly defined agreed qualification structure for the UK systems industry and therefore this clause cannot yet be applied in this country – but it's something to keep in mind for the future.

What's the impact – and the opportunity – for your business?

You'll need to ensure after 1 October 2005 that all new intruder and hold-up alarms you install comply with the requirements of PD 6662:2004, the latest version of DD 243 and – where applicable – the latest ACPO Policy.

But the new changes also bring with them new opportunities for your business. The Standards should make significant improvements in the way premises are surveyed and systems are designed and maintained. The introduction of the 'risk assessment' element will provide you with greater potential to recommend added-value solutions to meet your customers' security needs, based on the hard evidence of your survey and analysis of the risks, all of which will be clearly documented.

The grading of systems should also provide companies with greater equality when competing for contracts. So overall the news is good if you're keen to develop and boost your business – and **redcare** is here to help you do exactly that.

How BT **redcare** can help

While the new Standards stipulate the need for risk assessment, there is no formal template setting out how this should be done. Inspection bodies (NSI, SSAIB, ICON) are likely to want to see evidence that you have completed a risk assessment.

This is where BT **redcare**'s business partner programme gives you the help you need to show you have complied with the Standards and also to build customer loyalty.

Why not join now and make the transition to the new Standards easy and profitable? After extensive industry consultation we have built a free programme of help, advice and easy-to-use tools to take the hassle out of familiarising yourself with the new standards. We have been listening closely to what you need. And the result is a package that will not only make the change to EN 50131 easy but also help your business to thrive.

What you get – 4 steps to business growth

1. Free online risk assessment survey and design grid

A ready-made, step-by-step online risk assessment survey for domestic/commercial premises and combined design grid. This allows you to construct your risk assessment survey in a way that is personalised for your customer on your own letterhead and incorporates your branding. What better way to differentiate yourself from your competitors?

2. Free information updates

Not only will BT **redcare** provide these great tools and the free advice programme, we will also be keeping business partners regularly updated with developments via alternate monthly email bulletins and digests. Updates on BT **redcare**'s risk assessment support materials are in the **redcare** Installer Bulletin. Alternatively, updates on industry standards also appear in the BT **redcare** Security and Fire Digest.

3. Workshops and seminars

Working closely with the industry we have sponsored a series of training workshops and seminars designed to provide clarity and to help you incorporate the changes within your working environment. See our website or speak to your **redcare** account manager to find out where and when these events are taking place.

4. **redcare** products that clearly meet all your customers' needs – whatever the risks assessed

This table shows you how **redcare** products are graded under the new Standards

System features	Digicom	redcare home monitoring	Basic redcare	redcare gsm
European Risk Grade	Unlikely to comply unless monitored	Grade 2	Grade 4*	Grade 4*
No of signalling paths	Single	Dual	Single	Dual
Fully monitored	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Confirms alarms following loss of signalling path	No	Yes	No	Yes
Confirms loss of both paths	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes

* Independently tested by Building Research Establishment (BRE)

How to join the business partner programme – it's easy

To become a **redcare** business partner, please go to **www.redcare.bt.com/security/installers/bus_part.htm** or speak to your **redcare** account manager or call us now on **0800 800 828**.

What you should do now: a quick checklist

To get yourself ready to survey and install to the new European Standards from 1 October 2005, you need to:

1. Get hold of copies of these key documents:

   - **PD 6662:2004 Scheme** for the application of European Standards for intruder and hold-up alarm systems
   - **prEN 50131-1:2004 System Requirements**
   - **DD CLC/TS 50131-7:2003 Application Guidelines**
   - **BS EN 50136:1998 Alarm Transmission Systems**

2. Join the **redcare** business partner programme and take advantage of the free training seminars and regular information updates that are exclusively for programme members.

3. Visit the **redcare** website at **www.redcare.bt.com/security/installers/risk_ment.htm** for more information about risk assessment and for free copies of the survey forms and design grids.