

NSI Bulletin - Issue 4:

Topic: Police Response for Visual Confirmation

Within the security sector a new revision of BS 8418:2021 for the 'Design, installation, commissioning and maintenance of detector-activated video surveillance systems (VSS) – Code of practice' was published in July.

Introducing fundamental change, the new Code appeals to many by putting properties protected by a Remote Video Response Centre (RVRC) onto police response, where previously this was not an option.

Two types of monitored system now qualify for a police URN (Unique Reference Number) when certificated to the new BS 8418:2021, Type A and Type A+:

Type A+ are 'upper level' systems. These continue to use similar technical and installation requirements to the earlier 2015 version of the Standard. Designed to suit insurance requirements for higher-risk commercial, industrial, military, utilities and other similar sites, these include tamper detection such as the use of anti-masking and additional protection for control equipment.

Type A are 'standard' systems. These involve the use of image transmission to an RVRC and detection techniques to screen out false alarms. Importantly however, they do not 'water down' requirements for lower risk sites. Rather, these systems must meet prescribed technical standards for operations, including detection and alarm transmission. In some cases, sites may already benefit from pre-existing security measures, including building intruder alarms. Adding a BS 8418:2021-compliant surveillance system will provide further complementary protection.

It's expected the simpler installation and technology requirements of Type A systems will encourage greater use of URNs for RVRC-monitoring of VSSs.

Additional & revised standards

Both the 'upper level' Type A+ and 'standard' Type A BS 8418-compliant systems operated by RVRCs will need to comply with other standards including:

- BS 9518 'Processing of alarm signals by an alarm receiving centre – Code of practice'. Also published in July, this Code streamlines together alarm handling requirements for visual, audio, sequential and personal attack alarms in one document and takes over from previous RVRC operational performance requirements.
- BS 8243:2010 'Installation and configuration of intruder and hold-up alarm systems designed to generate confirmed alarm conditions – Code of practice'. A redrafted version of BS 8243 was published in June 2021



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There will be a 12-month transition period ending on 31st July 2022. During this period installations can comply with either the 2015 or 2021 edition of BS 8418, though it is expected many approved companies will seek to transition and offer the new Type A+ and Type A solutions earlier.

For a VSS to have an allocated URN it must be installed and maintained by a company independently approved by a UKAS-accredited Certification Body, such as the National Security Inspectorate.

For more information on this subject please contact Matthew Holliday, NSI's Director of Standards, on matthew.holliday@nsi.org.uk

NSI News

[More information on Police Response.](#)

[Publication of new NSI Code of Practice for Intruder Alarms NCP 120](#) (replacing NACP 11 for NACOSS Gold and Systems Silver approved companies).

[Certification Bodies Join Forces to Support Industry Fight Against Rogue Labour.](#)



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