

Church Roof Alarms—general guidelines

A roof alarm should comply with either the Security Systems and Alarms Installation Board (SSAIB) Code of Practice (SS2004) for temporary alarm systems (TAS) – at its described ‘Enhanced’ performance level – or meet the following basic functions:

Alarm company

The system shall be designed, installed and maintained (under a contract for emergency and, at least annual, preventative maintenance) by a company listed by either the SSAIB, the National Security Inspectorate (NSI) or a company otherwise approved by Aviva.

System functions

The roof alarm system shall include a means to operate the system (set/unset), a means of detecting an unauthorised person, a means of processing the information and a means to transmit activations to an Alarm Receiving Centre (Remote Notification). Audible site warning devices may also be provided (Local Notification).

Environmental classification

The environmental class of each component should be determined by the environmental conditions in which the component is expected to operate. Movement detectors/motion viewers for outdoor use need to meet Environmental Class III, as per BS EN 50131-1.

Functional requirements

- a. For detection devices using wire-free interconnections, the detector battery should be monitored and a signal transmitted via the Control Equipment to the Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC) indicating that battery power is low.
- b. Systems must include a means of detecting that a detector has been moved from its designated mounting position i.e. anti tamper technology.

Area coverage

The main roof areas consisting of lead or copper sheets need to be covered by detection devices.

Control equipment

Control equipment forming part of a roof alarm should where possible be in an alarm protected area that does not form part of an Entry/Exit route and needs to include the following mandatory attributes:

- a. Include a means to detect attack on the equipment and removal from its mounting
- b. Be connected to the remote setting/unsetting control unit
- c. Provide a secure method of setting/unsetting plus indication to users that setting/unsetting has been successfully completed.
- d. Include a means of reliably providing Remote Notification to an ARC.



Remote notification

Is to be provided to an NSI or SSAIB listed Alarm Receiving Centre by:

- a. Radio based technology such as GSM or GPRS systems; OR
- b. By telecoms landline, e.g. PSTN or IP, if a suitable reliable connection is available; OR
- c. A combination of a and b.

Remote Notification products/systems used to connect the control equipment to the ARC must be suitably monitored (e.g. via polling) to enable a failure of one, or both communication links to be detected and reported to the ARC within a maximum time period of 12 hours.

Response to roof alarm

Should be provided by either the client's own trained staff or a third-party service provider, e.g. a guarding or commercial response company listed by SSAIB or NSI & / or holding the Security Industry Authority (SIA) Approved Contractor Scheme (ACS) status.

If a guarding or response company are used, they should be NSI or SSAIB listed and be likely to be able to respond to a notified activation / fault relating to the roof alarm within 90 minutes.

Note: all employees of a third-party guarding/response company should by law hold an appropriate Security Industry Authority licence.

This article has been recreated with the permission of Aviva Insurance.

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Recognised Church Roof Alarm Installers



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