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1. Intruder Alarm System – Grades

EN50131-1 describes four grades of performance which should be considered when selecting equipment as follows:

- **Grade 1 – Low Risk**
Intruders are expected to have little knowledge of IAS and be restricted to a limited range of easily available tools.
- **Grade 2 – Low to Medium Risk**
Intruders are expected to have a limited knowledge of IAS and the use of a general range of tools and portable instruments (Example: Multi-Meter)
- **Grade 3 – Medium to High Risk**
Intruders are expected to be conversant with IAS and have a comprehensive range of tools and portable electronic equipment.
- **Grade 4 – High Risk**
To be used when security takes precedence over all other factors. Intruders are expected to have the ability or resource to plan an intrusion in detail and have a full range of equipment, including means of substitution of vital components in the IAS.

There are a number of other factors which are required in relation to each of the above grades such as Battery capacity & Charging Times, types of detector used (Grade 3 & 4 - all PIRs to be Anti Mask, Grade 4 - PIRs must detect significant reduction in specified range), levels of access to the IAS, reporting & indications. For more comprehensive information please refer to standard **EN50131-1:2006, Part 1: System Requirements.**



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2. Intruder Alarm System – Monitoring Equipment Costs & Fees

There are a number of options in relation to alarm transmission to an Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC) and I have shown some costs below:

Monitoring Fees – Standard Land Line Based Communicator

Domestic Monitoring Fee €165.00 inc Vat

Commercial Monitoring Fee €232.00 plus Vat

GSM Unit

The cost to supply and install a GSM Unit will depend on the type of system in place and also the type of monitoring that is required by the customer (ARC, SMS Text Message, and Voice Message). These costs can be from approximately €250.00 - €450.00 plus Vat)

Monitoring charges for a standard GSM Unit are as indicated above but also need to include the running costs of a GSM SIM Card. This can be a Ready to Go SIM Card, although it must always be in credit. For this reason we would always recommend a Bill Pay SIM Card at a cost of approximately €10.00 depending on usage

Mesh Radio Unit

Mesh Radio Units are supplied by the Alarm Receiving Centre and are supplied free of charge to new customers. These units would generally be subject to an installation charge which can be from €95.00 upwards depending on the labour involved.

For existing customers, the supply and installation of a Mesh Radio Unit costs in the region of €450.00 plus Vat. (In some circumstances, the actual Mesh Radio Unit may be supplied Free of Charge)

The annual monitoring fee for a Mesh Radio is between €360.00 - €450.00 plus Vat.

Monitoring fees are subject to Vat @ 23% (Domestic charge above is inclusive of Vat @ 23%)



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3. Fire Alarm Systems – Pre-Alarm & Two-Stage Alarms

IS3218:2009 – 5.3.9 – Early Warning (Pre-Alarm) – In some types of system an early warning (pre-alarm) can be given of conditions which might (or might not) represent a fire. Such warnings should not initiate a full fire alarm, but may be used to alert personnel to the need for an inspection, thus reducing the number of false alarms and possibly giving earlier fire action (see 8.2.3.5)

IS3218:2009 – 8.2.3.5 – Action by the user following a pre-alarm warning

- a) Determine the detector and area from which the warning has come
- b) Inspect the area thoroughly to ensure that there is no fire; if a fire is found, then carry out the pre-planned fire routine
- c) If no fire is found, record the warning in the Log Book

Note: On some systems a pre-alarm warning is given if the output from a detector is drifting towards an alarm level.

IS3218:2009 – 5.6.9 – In certain large or complex buildings it may be considered desirable to institute a two-stage alarm system, stage one serving as an “alert” signal, stage two as “evacuate”, or as a combination of the two, in such a manner as to produce an immediate “evacuate” signal in the area of origin of the alarm, and an “alert” signal in other pre-determined areas. In any such system provision should be made to change manually and automatically the “alert” signal to the “evacuate” signal, within a specific time e.g. 2 min.

Many combinations of two-stage alarm systems are possible and it is important, therefore, that the one selected shall be decided as a result of due consideration of 5.2.3.

Two-stage alarms shall be considered only after close consultation with the interested parties as defined in 5.2.8.4, and particularly with the local fire authority.