EMERGENCY VOICE COMMUNICATIONS

BRITISH STANDARDS

VIGIL OmniCare has been designed and built to meet relevant British Standards. There are some disciplines within these Standards which we would like to point out to you and are covered in this leaflet. The British Standards are:

BS9999:2008 • BS5839-9:2011 • BS8300:2009

BS9999:2008 - EXPLAINED:

Code of practice for fire safety in the design, management and use of buildings. (BS9999:2008 supersedes BS5588-8).

- Definition 'Refuge' - a place of relative safety. It should be protected from a fire for a period of time sufficient to enable safe evacuation. A temporary waiting area where disabled people can await evacuation.
- Refuge areas need to be provided on all storeys (except where there is a level access to a final exit). They should be provided for:
  - Each protected stairway affording egress from each storey, and
  - Each final exit leading onto a flight of stairs external to the building.
- The minimum space for a refuge needs to be at least 900mm x 1400mm, as it needs to be of sufficient size to allow a wheelchair to manoeuvre.
- The 'door' width to a refuge should have a minimum clear opening of 850mm and the corridor width should not be less than 900mm.
- Where it is reasonably forseeable that the proportion of disabled will be relatively high, consideration should be given to increasing the size and/or number of refuges accordingly.
- Examples of satisfactory refuges:
  - An enclosure such as a compartment, protected lobby, protected corridor or protected stairway.
  - An area in the open air such as a flat roof, balcony, podium or similar place sufficiently protected (or remote) from any fire risk and provided with its own means of escape.
- All refuges must have a minimum of 30 minutes fire-resisting separation and a FD30S type fire door.
- It is essential that the location of refuges, and of wheelchair spaces within refuges, does not have any adverse effect on the means of escape provided in the building.
- When the number and locations of refuges have been decided the essential requirement for independent communication between the occupants and evacuation management personnel need to be met.
- People in each refuge need to be assured that their presence is known to the building management. To address this there needs to be:
  - A system of two-way communication between those people.
  - The two-way communication system needs to be readily operated and comprehensible to all persons likely to need to use it.
  - The system should conform to BS5839-9:2011 and consist of Type B outstations which communicate with a master station located in the building control room or other suitable control point at fire and rescue service access level.

BS5839-9:2011 EXPLAINED:

Fire detection and fire alarm systems for buildings - Code of practice for the design, installation, commissioning and maintenance of emergency voice communication systems.

- The Standard provides guidelines for use of emergency voice communication (EVC) system in an emergency situation and for the communication with disabled persons.
- Definition 'Refuge' - an area that is enclosed with fire-resisting construction (other than any part that is an external wall of a building) and served directly by a safe route to a storey exit, evacuation lift or final exit. Thus constituting a temporary safe space for disabled people to await assistance for their evacuation.

General:

- EVC systems are generally needed in the following situations:
  - Buildings/venues where there are people who may have difficulty self-evacuating in an emergency.
  - Buildings with phased evacuation.
  - Buildings without phased evacuation but where size/type/shape necessitates communication between locations and to facilitate evacuation/firefighting.
  - Sports venues, or similar, where stewards may need to control an evacuation.
- Intended uses for an EVC:
  - Use by the management of the building or complex, for its initial evacuation.
  - Use by the fire service during an evacuation.
  - Use by the fire service after an evacuation.
  - Use by disabled people.
  - As a listen in device.

Outstations:

- There should be two types of outstation available:
  - Type A - an outstation using a telephone handset for voice communication.
  - Type B - an outstation using an intercom and normally mounted on a wall.
- Opening the door, or lifting the handset, in a Type A outstation should initiate the call.
- Type B outstations should be operated by use of a single call button.
- An outstation should be used as follows:
  - An outstation intended for evacuation or fire fighting should be Type A (Baldwin Boxall's fire telephone/emergency telephone).
  - An outstation used by the disabled should typically be Type B (Baldwin Boxall's disabled refuge/advance disabled refuge remotes).
  - An outstation used by the public should be Type B (Baldwin Boxall's disabled refuge/advance disabled refuge remotes).
- In areas of high ambient noise, the outstation units should be supplemented with a visual warning signal i.e. beacon.
- Type A outstations should either have a door or removable front panel.
- Outstations should be capable of flush mounting.
- Outstations intended for fire fighting should be red in colour. Outstations intended for refuge communication by disabled people should be green in colour (or indicated by means of a green sign).
- In sports venues outstations should be lockable.
- Outstations in refuges should be readily available at all times and not be locked.
- In a sports venue (or similar) no-one should have to travel more than 30m ro reach the nearest outstation.
- In general outstations should be placed at a height of 1.3m to 1.4m except in refuges where they should be located at a height of 900mm to 1.2m.

Master control units:

- The master control unit should be wall mounting and have the option to be flush mountable.
- The master control unit should have a lockable door (or key switch) when not mounted in a control room.
- The master control unit should have its vertical centre of the controls mounted at height of 1.4m to 1.5m and it should be installed in an area of low fire risk.

BS5839-9:2011 continued:

System & cabling:

- Master control units and outstations should have a minimum of IP30 protection for mounting indoors.
- All interconnecting cabling should be monitored.
- An EVC system should be fully monitored and faults reported back to the master control.
- All controls on an EVC system should be clearly labelled.
- In the event of power failure the EVC should have sufficient battery backup to maintain the system for 24 hours in quiescent state followed by three hours of use in an emergency.
- Fire rated enhanced four core, colour coded, cable with a screen must be used for fire fighting systems.
- Standard fire resisting cables could be considered for:
  - EVC systems for use in disabled refuges but not for fire fighting in (a) sprinklered buildings; (b) unsprinklered buildings less than 30m in height, provided that evacuation takes place in three or fewer phases.
  - Underground sections of cabling at sports and similar venues.
- An EVC system should be regularly inspected and serviced by a competent person with specialist knowledge.

BALDWIN BOXALL'S OMNICARE COMPLIES TO BS9999:2008 AND BS5839-9:2011 WHEN INSTALLED CORRECTLY.

BS8300:2009 SUMMARY:

Design of buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people. Code of practice on accessible buildings.

- A disabled toilet alarm must not be confused, visually or audibly, with a fire alarm.
- The alarm pull cord should be sited so that it can be operated from the toilet and adjacent floor area.
- The pull cord, coloured red, should provide two red bangles of 50mm diameter - one set at 800-1000mm and the other set at 100mm above floor level.
- Visual and audible feedback should be provided to indicate the alarm has been triggered.
- The alarm indicator located outside the toilet area should be placed where it will be seen and heard by people able to provide assistance and indicate where help is required.
- An additional alarm indicator may be fitted remotely.
- The reset control must be clearly marked as such and sited so that it is within reach from a wheelchair and the toilet.

BALDWIN BOXALL'S DISABLED TOILET ALARM COMPLIES TO BS8300:2009 WHEN INSTALLED CORRECTLY.

VIGIL OmniCare

OmniCare is an emergency voice communication system that allows disabled refuge, fire telephones, emergency/steward telephones and disabled toilet alarms to be connected to one master control panel.

Individual leaflets are available which explain the OmniCare system in detail (master control panels, remote units, disabled toilet alarm and cabling & networking). For copies of these leaflets please contact: mail@baldwinboxall.co.uk.

HOW CAN VIGIL OMNICARE HELP YOU?

- Loop wiring - saves up to 75% on cabling costs when compared to typical star circuit systems.
- One loop for multiple styles of remote unit - great flexibility.
- Combined remote unit available - featuring fire telephone and disabled refuge in one.
- Follow guidelines of BS8300:2009, BS5839-9:2011 and BS9999:2008.
- Satisfy the requirements of the DDA.
- Assurance of our reputation for quality and support.
- **Above all - VIGIL OmniCare can help you save life!**

A selection of remote units which can be connected on a single loop to an OmniCare master control panel.

Please note: This leaflet is intended as a guide only. Official British Standard documentation should be referred to for full explanation and details.

BALDWIN BOXALL

TEL: +44 (0) 1892 664422
FAX: +44 (0) 1892 663146

EMAIL: MAIL@BALDWINBOXALL.CO.UK
WEB: WWW.BALDWINBOXALL.CO.UK

BALDWIN BOXALL COMMUNICATIONS LTD
WEALDEN INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,
FARNINGHAM ROAD, CROWBOROUGH,
EAST SUSSEX, TN6 2JR, UNITED KINGDOM.

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