

## Omnicare

## CARE 2

This leaflet provides answers to the questions we are often asked with regard to Emergency Voice Communication Systems. If you cannot find what you are looking for here please contact our Sales or Marketing Department for assistance.

### Which British Standards do I need to refer to?

- BS9999:2008 - for refuge area definitions and specifications.
- BS5839-9:2011 - for design, installation, commissioning and maintenance guidelines.
- BS8300:2009 - for disabled toilet alarm code of practice on accessible buildings.

### Is BS5839-9:2011 statutory?

- BS5839-9 is a guideline, however, Baldwin Boxall strongly recommends that this is followed carefully due to the fact that it is a life safety system.

### What is the difference between Type A and Type B remotes?

- Type A - an outstation using a telephone handset for communication. Fire telephone / steward telephone.
- Type B - an outstation using an intercom and normally mounted on the wall. Disabled refuge remote.

### What is a refuge area?

- A temporary waiting area of relative safety.
- It should be protected from a fire for a period of time sufficient to enable the evacuation sequence to be completed.
- Commonly located within fire protected stairwells (should be accessed in the same direction as the escape flow).

- Can be a protected lobby, protected corridor or protected room. Can also be a flat roof, balcony or similar space sufficiently protected or remote, with its own means of escape.
- Should be accessible by a person in a wheelchair.
- As a minimum a refuge area should be 900 mm x 1400 mm (clear entrance of at least 850 mm with a corridor width of not less than 900 mm).
- Should not be used as a place to leave a disabled person to await rescue by the fire service.

### When do I need a refuge system?

- A refuge system provides two-way voice communication between a refuge area and building control.
- 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.

To help you assess the need for refuge areas, refer to our 'When do I need a REFUGE AREA?' document.

## What are the intended uses of an EVC system?

- Use by 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.

## Does an EVC system have to be linked to the fire alarm system?

- No, although OmniCare and CARE2 does offer this option to prevent hoax DRS calls.

Mounting heights & cabling - see over...

## How high should the units be?

- Master console, for use:
  - By a standing operator - 1400-1500 mm.
  - In a control room - within easy reach from operator.
- Disabled refuge remote - 900-1200 mm.
- Fire/steward telephone - 1300-1400 mm.
- OmniCare combined DRS/telephone - 1235-1330 mm.
- Disabled toilet alarm:
  - 'Bangles' on pull cord - 800-1000 mm and 100 mm.
  - Reset switch - within reach of the caller.

Measurements are from floor level to the centre point of the item.

## What cable types should be used for an EVC system?

- BS5839-9:2011 should be referred to for full details, however:
- ENHANCED fire rated MUST be used for FIRE FIGHTING systems.
- STANDARD fire resisting cables could be considered suitable 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 places.
  - Underground sections of cabling at sports and similar venues.

OmniCare: Four-core enhanced (refer to above) fire rated cable. Remotes are wired in a loop format.  
CARE2: Two-core enhanced (refer to above) fire rated cable. Remotes are wired as radials. Network loop is 2 x 2 core enhanced fire rated cable.  
DTAKIT: 1.0 mm two-core (fire rated screened recommended by Baldwin Boxall) cable from EVC line to overdoor light/sounder. Then two-core security cable (not fire rated) to DTAKIT components.  
(Please refer to product data sheets for further cabling information.)



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