

# RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR METAL THEFT PROTECTION

Additional world demand has seen the value of most metals increase with a subsequent rise in the number of thefts of metal products.

Thieves are going to greater lengths to seek the rewards they can gain from these thefts and are becoming ever more organised and bolder in their attacks.

In addition to the materials a theft can result in much more significant losses by restricting the business trading whilst repair work is undertaken.

The following information is provided for guidance purposes only:

## 1) ASSESSMENT

An assessment to be undertaken to review the risks associated with metal theft and the adequacy of existing precautions. The following to be considered

- a) type of metal, value and location
- b) reliance of the business on metals
- c) crime history of the premises and immediate locality
- d) physical security
- e) electronic security
- f) asset marking and recovery systems
- g) safety considerations.
- b) external yards and compounds – metals not to be sited immediately adjacent to yard perimeters, fencing or vehicle site access points. Store ladders in a secure area to restrict roof access
- c) the perimeter fencing to any yard to be a minimum height of 2.4 metres and ideally either
  - i) welded mesh fencing to BS 1722-10, a small mesh size which frustrates finger holds and climbing
  - ii) open mesh steel panel fencing ‘expanded metal’ to BS 1722-14 or
  - iii) steel palisade fencing to BS 1722-12, vertical steel rods, with top end flattened, split and splayed into sharpened points to deter climbing

## 2) TYPE OF METAL, VALUE & LOCATION

- a) Record the type and quantities of metals within the premises including yards. Try to keep metal stock to a minimum.
- b) Consider the financial value of the metal, its operational importance to the business and the potential consequences of loss of use of the metal.
- c) Consider location of metals and if they can be relocated to a more secure area or where surveillance levels are higher.
- d) Consider the benefits of replacing metal with an alternative, less theft attractive, material particularly if there has already been a theft.
- d) where there is vehicle access, particularly in isolated locations, an anti ram raid vehicle barrier such as a trench, high kerb, substantial steel posts or large concrete obstacles outside the fence to be considered
- e) gates to be of the same height, material and strength as fencing. Hinges to be designed to prevent the gate from being lifted and secured by welded high security proprietary locking bars and padlocks to BS EN 12320, grade 5 or 6. Where ram raid is a potential threat the installation of additional removable anti ram protection to be considered
- f) theft of cables – there are a number of methods of increasing cable security including
  - i) proprietary locking nuts and bolts which restrict the easy removal of valuable components such as ground bars
  - ii) cable clamps which clamp the cable within security fittings
  - iii) lockable footway covers which provide robust locking arrangements for cable covers
  - iv) secondary security covers which hinder access to cables
  - v) tack welding of access points and burying of pull boxes

## 3) PHYSICAL SECURITY MEASURES

In assessing the level of physical security required the following to be considered

- a) locked building – ideally all metals to be stored within a locked building with good quality doors secured by BS 3621 or BS EN 1303 approved locks or BS EN 12320 approved padlocks grades 5 or 6 on matching pad bars. Windows to be secured by security bars or grilles or key operated window locks



- g) protection of metal roofs – prevent roof access by applying non-setting, anti-climb paint to down pipes and roof edges, or installing anti climb spikes or barbed or razor wire (providing this is not in an ordinarily accessible location). Prevent easy access onto roofs by removing water butts, waste bins and tall trees located near to the building.

#### 4) ELECTRONIC SECURITY MEASURES

In assessing the level of electronic security required, the following to be considered

- a) Intruder Alarm Detection (Internal) – where items are located within a building consider installation of, or upgrading existing system to, an intruder alarm system complying with BS EN 50131 and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Security Systems Policy. The supply, installation and maintenance of the system to be undertaken by a UKAS accredited installer and approved by an independent inspection body, such as NSI or SSAIB. The alarm to connect to an NSI approved alarm receiving centre preferably by dual path signalling. Alternatively signal to a permanently manned security station or gate-house at the premises. Alarm system to use “sequential alarm” detection for confirmation, enabling the alarm receiving centre to filter alarm signals and avoid unnecessary police attendance following false alarms
- b) Intruder Alarm Detection (External) – where items are located externally it is not possible to obtain a URN (Unique Reference Number) required to obtain police response but there are a wide range of BS EN 50131 compliant alarm devices designed for external use such as passive infrared detectors, infrared beam detectors and microwave fence detectors that enable the Alarm Receiving Centre to alert the keyholders. A system with visual verification camera on a passive infrared detector with built in camera can provide the Alarm Receiving Centre with even greater reliability against false alarms
- c) Roof Access Detection – there are a number of intruder alarm systems designed to protect roof locations including PIR detectors which fan out zones of detection with specific configuration to reduce activations from movements of wildlife, or those which detect vibration on the roof with each able to provide activation to the Alarm Receiving Centre

- d) Underground Cable Theft Detection – proprietary systems are available which use
  - i) light sensors to detect if a cable chamber or duct is opened
  - ii) monitoring systems to detect if cables are severed
  - iii) buried miniature motion or disturbance detectors and associated cameras to watch for movement, shock or vibration if a security zone near the cable run is entered or disturbed
- e) Detector Activated Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) – a more effective means of detection of unauthorised external entry is detection activated CCTV which combines intruder alarm technology and CCTV. The CCTV is activated by detectors within the secure area, similar to intruder alarm systems, with the images passed on to the Alarm Receiving Centre for action. For the system to achieve credibility with the police installation to be by a UKAS accredited installer, and approved by an independent inspection body, such as NSI or SSAIB and comply with BS 8418 Installation and remote monitoring of detector-activated CCTV systems code of practice.

#### 5) ASSET MARKING AND RECOVERY SYSTEMS

- a) If items are stolen asset marking allows the police or a security company to trace their owners. Items to be marked with systems tested and approved to LPS 1225: Requirements for the LPCB Approval and Listing of Asset Marking Systems, examples include:
  - i) security labels
  - ii) embedding a microdot or, for cables, a continuous ID tape
  - iii) printing, embossing or etching with a marker
- b) Forensic Marking, in addition to identifying the owner, can strengthen a suspect’s link with the theft increasing credibility in court and assisting prosecution. Items to be marked with a forensic marking system which has an individual suspended forensic code, such as Smartwater or similar. Non drying forensic greases or gels which transfer and stick to the thieves handling marked assets are also available
- c) Marking that cannot be read and readily linked to the legal owner without reference to records to be supported by a secure database operated by reputable providers as approved by LPS 1224: Issue 3 ‘Requirements for companies providing secure asset registration services’.

#### IMPORTANT NOTE

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