Standards Explained

What You Need To Know

NATIONAL HOME SECURITY MONTH
October 2019

Security that's right up your street.

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Standards Explained

Security standards can seem like a whole other language and can often be confusing when trying to decide what security products you should have.

But while you don't need to learn all the ins and outs, it's important to have a basic understanding to know if your home complies and what to look out for. Taking a practical approach to home security will minimise risks, meet regulatory requirements and could even reduce your home insurance premiums.

Here's what you need to know…

British Standards

The British Standards Institution (BSI) undertakes security testing and certification services for doors, windows and locks. A product certified by the BSI will have the British Kitemark symbol branded on the packaging and product itself. This stamp of approval acts as an excellent visual deterrent and is recognised worldwide as a symbol of quality, trust and safety. The marking also proves that the product has been tested over and above the minimum legal requirements for quality.

- **BS7950** – the standard for window security
- **BS3621** – the standard for locks
- **PAS 24** – the standard for door security
- **PAS 24** differs because it is an independent test carried out on a whole door or window where components are tested within that door / window to certain standards. Individually products cannot be tested to PAS 24 as it is the door or window that holds the test certification.

Testing by the BSI includes weather tightness, endurance and security.

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Technical Specifications

A technical specification is a document that outlines and defines a set of requirements that a product must meet or exceed. In regard to home security, TS007 and TS008 are the common specifications referenced.

TS007 is a security standard for replacement cylinders and protective door furniture and was introduced amid concerns over the growth in lock-snapping crimes.
The specification is aimed at protecting cylinder locks against all known methods of forced entry, including picking, manipulation, bumping and snapping, and sets out to provide a way to upgrading the cylinder security of your door.

The TS007 standard uses a three-star system, in which the cylinder or a combination of security hardware must have an accumulative three stars to meet the minimum-security requirements. The star rating will be indicated above the Kitemark on the packaging and the product itself.

The TS008 refers to the security of letterplates and is in response to lock manipulation and key fishing attacks. The specification also provides fire and smoke protection if inflammable materials or lit fireworks are posted.

CE

You may recognise the CE symbol on security products. This marking is mandatory and proves that a product meets the minimum legal requirements as set out by the European Union.

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Document Q

The Government's new legislation ensures that greater levels of security are in place to protect new homes, regulating against poor quality doors, windows and associated hardware. Under Document Q, all new doors (including garage doors) and windows should be made to meet the security requirements of PAS24, or other standards that exceed or meet this. This is important to consider if you are thinking of building your own property.

Secured by Design

Secured by Design is the official UK Police initiative supporting the principles of 'designing out crime'. The scheme promotes the use of security standards and products receive the stamp of approval once they have met Secured by Design's rigorous testing guidelines. Research has indicated that homes using products and materials that meet Secured by Design's standard are up to 75% less likely to be burgled and show a reduction of 25% in criminal damage.

FENSA

FENSA stands for the Fenestration Self-Assessment Scheme and provides a method for door and window installers to demonstrate their compliance with building regulations for replacement windows and doors.

Smart Standards

A new locking standard adopted by the British Standard Institute (BSI) known as **TS621:2018** is now the recognised UK standard for smart locking devices. To achieve the new standard, the smart lock must undergo rigorous testing, including quality and durability tests as well as physical attack testing. Smart locks are also required to undertake electronic manipulation and assessments designed to test the electronic security of the lock to ensure it is secure against advanced hacking methods. The standard has been designed to provide homeowners with the peace of mind that they can enjoy the convenience and lifestyle benefits of a smart lock, without having to compromise on the security of their home. The Yale Conexis® L1 Smart Lock has become the first ever smart lock to be British Kitemark approved.

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