

BRITISH SECURITY INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION – OVERVIEW

The British Security Industry Association was formed in 1967 at the request of the Home Office for a body to be formed to represent the security industry. Today its members are responsible for more than 70% of UK security products and services (by turnover) including the manufacture, distribution and installation of electronic and physical security equipment and the provision of security guarding and consultancy services.

ORGANISATION

The BSIA is dedicated to the improvement of standards and innovation within the UK security industry and it does this through:

- Strict criteria for our membership:
 - All members must be registered to the latest version of ISO 9001 with a UKAS accredited certification body
 - They must comply with relevant British and European Standards and Codes of Practice
 - They must provide two years' trading accounts to prove that they are financially sound
 - They must prove that they are technically well informed and competent
 - They must provide evidence that their business is conducted in a professional manner
 - They must be committed to quality training and development
- Membership commitment to improvement of standards and innovation. This is achieved by the members being allocated to sections representing the main area of their business and members are often members of several sections where their business has a range of security activities. Sections are member led, meet on a regular basis and are involved in industry issues, Codes of Ethics and Practice, development of British, European and International Standards and training.
- Skills for Security is a wholly owned subsidiary of the BSIA and is the sector skills body for the private security industry. Skills for Security are a leading provider of National Occupational Standards as well as providing bespoke training courses and assessment services for the security industry.

CAPABILITIES

The security industry is extremely diverse in its skills, products and services and the BSIA is organised into sections to represent this diversity and focus member activity on innovation and development of standards. Its sections are:

ACCESS AND ASSET PROTECTION

A restructuring of BSIA Sections in April 2015 saw the launch of the Access and Asset Protection Section which has member companies involved in the manufacture, supply and installation of solutions that restrict, control and monitor the movement of people, assets or vehicles in, out and around buildings and sites. This includes the physical protection methods such as security doors, fencing, locks, barriers, safes, strong rooms, ATM security, rising screens, etc and the electronic access control systems that control them and allow authorised persons in and keep undesired people out.

From a security perspective many of the design considerations needed for the physical protection and electronic systems are the same and member companies involved in both aspects now work closely together. An example of this is ensuring by guidance and training a match of performance so that a strong door is not defeated by attacking a weak access control installation. Equally, design of facilities to take into account fire evacuation and enabling accessibility by disabled persons requires an integrated approach. The section is well positioned to provide guidance on these matters, to lobby for consistent standards and regulations, and liaise with other bodies such as insurers and specifiers.

The BSIA's Access and Asset Protection Section members will represent all aspects of the sector's work from manufacture, distribution, supply, design, installation and maintenance.

Access control products range from token based systems and digital keypads, through to biometric identification systems and the associated hardware. Such products are subject to fast-moving technological development. A major focus of the BSIA Access Control members is to raise awareness amongst end-users and specifiers of the different types of equipment that is available, the most appropriate environments for using them and the added value features that the systems can provide to offset the costs of security.

The Association is heavily involved in the development of standards at both National, European and International levels.

ASSET AND PROPERTY MARKING

BSIA Asset and Property Marking section members have the common goal of deterring theft and other crimes by rendering stolen goods useless through covert or overt security marking. Forensic marking enables police to catch and convict criminals, thus creating a powerful deterrent.

The BSIA Asset and Property Marking Section focuses on raising the profile of this sector of the industry to maximise usage, as well as generally increasing awareness of the existence of marking systems and how they work.

The section continues to support the Banknote Watch and Raid-control initiatives. Banknote Watch raises awareness that "a stained note is probably a stolen note" and Raid-control promotes a strong retail robbery deterrent package incorporating cash marking.

Other important priorities for this group include developing and promoting relevant industry standards, and highlighting important issues to authorities such as the Police, insurance companies and the Home Office.

CASH AND VALUABLES IN TRANSIT

Cash and Valuables in Transit (CVIT) companies are involved in transporting, storing and sorting cash and other valuables, typically for retail and financial organisations. They play a vital role in replenishing and protecting cash supplies for the business world and the wider community, keeping the economy running.

CVIT operatives are licensed under the Private Security Industry Act, adding to their high standards of training and security. A range of CVIT services are available to suit the different needs of small, medium and large companies.

Due to the nature of the CVIT service unfortunately crime is a real challenge. The industry invests a huge amount in security measures to combat robbery and new technologies are constantly being explored.

A major focus of the BSIA's work involves liaison with the Police to ensure effective intelligence gathering, collation of up-to-date statistics and valuable joint initiatives.

Police liaison and intelligence sharing is facilitated through the BSIA's SaferCash service, funded by members of the

CVIT Section to reduce the number of attacks on cash-in-transit couriers through the effective sharing of intelligence between the cash in transit industry and Police forces nationwide.

The number of attacks on CVIT vehicles for 2014 were 223 compared to 958 in 2006 a reduction of 77%. Losses reduced from £20.1m to £3.2m; a 84% reduction. This is a direct result of the intelligence and more sophisticated security measures put in place over this time.

Attacks mean that our couriers have suffered injuries resulting from shootings, stabbings, pistol whippings and severe beatings, not to mention post-traumatic stress. This has a lasting effect on the individuals involved, their work colleagues and their families.

The industry is involved in a partnership initiative under the auspices of a Cash & Valuables in Transit Crime Reduction Charter. The partnership involves the Home Office, Police, banking, retail and security industries and has involved the creation of a CVIT Crime Reduction Delivery Plan.

CCTV

CCTV has had a profound impact on crime prevention and detection, and is never out of the news for long. The UK leads the way in the application of CCTV and its use is wide-ranging, encompassing facial-recognition technology, remote video monitoring, video smoke detection, mobile systems and Automatic Number Plate Recognition as well as many other functions.

BSIA commissioned a detailed report back in 2013 on the estimation of the amount of cameras in the UK. This research used a unique methodology in its calculations, resulting in the figures ranging 4.1 – 5.9 million cameras. In order to provide guidance and simplification in the complex area of CCTV, the BSIA is highly active in the British, European and International standards arena and also develops its own guides and codes of practice where currently standards do not exist. It is essential that satisfactory standards are in place to cover the installation, maintenance and operation of equipment. Rapid technological development renders this complex, with a need for standards work to be timely.

Significant improvements have been made in recent years in terms of image quality and the sector continues to move towards digital and networked systems as technology progresses. The section encourages debate on new developments and concerns, such as digital video evidence and facilitating communication protocols between different manufacturers' products. In doing so it seeks to ensure that all stakeholder interests are represented including: security companies, users, the Police, inspectorates and insurers. The section also works with Government on these issues and BSIA is a core contributor to the Surveillance Camera Commissioner's Advisory Council and Standards Board.

CCTV must be operated responsibly in order to respect citizens' rights and maintain public confidence. Laws such as the Data Protection Act have an important role to play in achieving this. BSIA CCTV companies drive best practice in this area and can provide advice on how CCTV users can adhere to the relevant legislation.

CROWD MANAGEMENT

Securing the UK's large events such as concerts, festivals and sports matches is imperative to ensuring that events run smoothly, spectators remain safe and any incidents are dealt with quickly and effectively.

The BSIA's Crowd Management Section represents security companies which offer the provision of stewarding and safety personnel at indoor and outdoor events.

EXPORT COUNCIL

The BSIA's Export Council serves as a forum for relationships between the UK's security industry and overseas buyers to be founded and cultivated, and acts as an invaluable port of call for overseas-based contacts interested in developing a relationship with a UK company as a partner, customer or distributor. Exporting remains pivotal for UK security companies, and BSIA networking initiatives such as the 'Meet the Buyers' event and high visible presence at IFSEC continue to establish and reinforce such links.

INFORMATION DESTRUCTION

The BSIA Information Destruction (ID) Section consists of companies that securely destroy a range of confidential information, including paper, DVDs and computer hard-drives. The section also destroys items that could potentially cause problems if they fall into the wrong hands, such as branded products and uniforms.

The section highlights the importance of information destruction for businesses and the benefits of using a quality supplier. With identity fraud rising, sensitive information and data needs to be destroyed properly otherwise confidential details can be put at risk.

The ID section's work is particularly relevant to the Data Protection Act. Every Data Controller using an information destruction company is required to choose a supplier which provides sufficient guarantees of security measures, including destruction being carried out under contract and evidenced in writing. All BSIA Information Destruction companies offer this quality guarantee.

Section members work to a European Standard for the secure destruction of confidential material (EN 15713) as part of their ISO 9001 inspection.

LEISURE INDUSTRY SECURITY

The Leisure Industry Security sector provides an enormous contribution to the lifeblood of our nighttime economy and to the running of the UK's leisure and sporting premises.

The area of door supervision in particular has gained in professionalism over the past few years, with the introduction of regulation bringing huge benefits for the sector. With large scale events, event stewards have proven their worth as vital contributors to the success of landmark events time after time - for example, the 2012 Olympics.

Membership of the Leisure Industry Security Section is open to companies involved in the provision of security services to licensed, leisure and sporting premises.

LONE WORKERS

The BSIA's Lone Worker Section consists of BSIA members who specialise in providing lone worker safety products and services to customers from a wide range of industry backgrounds.

More than six million people in the UK work either in isolation or without direct supervision, often in places or circumstances that put them at potential risk. A wide variety of organisations and industry sectors employ people whose jobs require them to work or operate alone, either regularly or occasionally.

Almost by definition, lone working can be both intimidating and at times dangerous, so the protection of lone workers involves a twofold approach; not only to provide safeguards but also to offer reassurance to the people involved.

The development of British Standard BS8484, a Code of Practice for the provision of Lone Worker Services, has been

a key element of the security industry's work to create such solutions. BS8484 is employed and adhered to by all credible suppliers in the industry and forms the basis for police response to lone worker systems.

POLICE & PUBLIC SERVICES

The BSIA's Police and Public Services Section has been established for companies that provide support services to the Police and other public sector organisations, which are not traditional security guarding roles and form part of the wider policing family.

The top priority of the section is to create new standards and training specifically for those types of activities, recognising the need for a different approach from standard security services. Recently the section has developed a Code of Practice for Security Searches.

There are a number of ways in which members of the Police and Public Services Section can provide support, thereby freeing up specialists to pursue their core duties. These include: court warrant services, court security/custody assistance, immigration services, lost/found/seized property management, scenes of crime protection, statement taking, street patrols (local authority and resident groups), town centre CCTV schemes, police and public services specific training and warden schemes.

All contract security personnel in this sector are regulated under the Private Security Industry Act 2001 and require a license, which is essential to public confidence in their ability to do these jobs.

SECURITY EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTORS

Security Equipment Distributors provide an intermediary role between the manufacturers, specifiers and installers of security products.

Playing a vital role within the industry, Security Equipment Distributors provide helplines for installers and customers on products supplied. They also provide guidance on relevant legislation that affects security systems including issues linked to the National Police Chief's Council (formally ACPO) Policy for Security Systems.

Ensuring that engineers are trained to install the equipment is another important function for distributors, as they make certain that installation/maintenance engineers fully understand the equipment supplied.

SECURITY EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS

BSIA manufacturers are at the forefront of developing technology, producing a wide variety of products for applications in commercial, residential and industrial environments. The function of these systems, which is primarily intruder alarm systems, can and does expand to related services such as security fogging devices, CCTV and access control, to deliver the benefits of effective security, which are to prevent, deter and detect crime.

A major focus of the Manufacturers Section is to ensure that appropriate standards are produced for the sector. A key challenge has been working to ensure that British and European standards for components such as detectors, sensors and control panels meet the requirements of UK customers and manufacturers.

The section has also been lobbying to rationalise testing and certification procedures across Europe and to encourage cross-border agreements – this is to avoid the situation where a product has to undergo costly re-testing in a number of different countries before it can be distributed in those parts of the world.

The section's standards focus is also illustrated by the production of a Code of Ethics for its members. This ensures

that all members offer a complete quality service to customers, including accurate product information, practical installation advice and comprehensive guarantees.

SECURITY GUARDING

Security officers protect people and property in a wide variety of environments – factories and warehouses, offices, shopping centres, hospitals, airports, concert and sports venues.

The growing responsibilities of these personnel, and their increasing public interface, intensified calls for government regulation of the sector which have been wholeheartedly supported by the BSIA. This culminated in the introduction of the Private Security Industry Act 2001, which in turn has led to licensing of security officers by the Security Industry Authority.

Security guarding has tended to be viewed as a ‘grudge purchase’, with many customers looking to purchase at the lowest cost and not necessarily considering how this will affect the calibre and retention of personnel, working conditions and a security company’s ability to provide a consistent quality of service.

The BSIA promotes ‘best value’ over ‘low cost’, stressing the importance of satisfactory pay levels and suitable training, as well as the benefits of recruiting and retaining quality personnel. It promotes the work of the modern-day professional security officer, for example through its Annual Security Officer Awards, and also highlights the many career development opportunities that are now available.

Another key issue which the section is addressing is the growing interface between security guarding and technology, and how this can be managed for maximum effectiveness.

SECURITY SYSTEMS

BSIA Security Systems companies are involved in the installation, maintenance and monitoring of intruder alarm systems.

The approach of the Police and insurers has a major impact on procedures that installers have to follow, and general public attitudes towards alarm systems. Consequently, the BSIA spends a great deal of time liaising with organisations such as the National Police Chief’s Council, Police Scotland, the Association of British Insurers and the RISC Authority group.

The BSIA also plays a major role in the involvement in standards development for intruder alarms systems, and works with inspection and accreditation bodies to ensure that the industry’s needs are met.

An important recent issue has been ensuring that European standards relating to installation are effectively introduced into the inspection process and communicated to the industry and its customers.

As the industry moves forward, integrating different types of technology, such as access control, CCTV and intruder alarms, will become central to ensuring an increasingly functional and secure system for protecting premises. BSIA members are already developing technologies which can cope with this complex interfacing.

SPECIALIST SERVICES

The BSIA’s Specialist Services Section was launched in November 2013. The section consists of members that offer specialist services including Close Protection, Technical Surveillance Counter Measures, Surveillance, IT Forensics, Cyber Security and Security Consulting including Critical National Infrastructure.

The section was created in light of the growing international reputation of the UK security sector and its products and services, particularly within the area of specialist security. As well as operating as an overall section, the new section also hosts a number of specialist working groups, allowing smaller, but still important, niche areas of the UK security sector to thrive within the Association. These working groups will ensure that issues affecting particular areas of the section are dealt with in a timely manner, along with enhancing cross sector and cross section communication.

Members of the section can assist security buyers with specialist and challenging requirements both in the UK and internationally, such as maritime security, penetration testing and critical national infrastructure protection.

TRAINING PROVIDERS

The Training Providers' Section of the BSIA was launched in 2012, with membership available exclusively for companies providing quality training to security industry personnel.

This move follows the original creation of a Training Providers' working group in April 2011, which brought together several companies that supply training services to the security industry in the UK. Following a successful seven months setting objectives and increasing membership, the Association has recognised the growing importance of this group by creating an official section of membership.

The Training Providers' Section is extremely ambitious in its objectives and is committed to working with fellow training providers, colleges, security companies, trade organisations and the Government to drive standards, increase professionalism and ultimately improve the standard of training offered in the security industry.

VACANT PROPERTY PROTECTION

This section was formed in April 2015 (including members formerly in the now closed Property and Asset Protection Section). With an increase in the number of properties remaining empty following the economic downturn members of this section perform a vital role. Members can provide specialist temporary and remotely monitored alarm and CCTV systems, security patrols, shuttering and other services. Alternatively member companies can arrange "protection by occupation" that works particularly to prevent problems caused by squatters.

A significant activity of the section is to promote the quality of provision by members and to distinguish their levels of service and reliability from less reputable companies. To help with this the section has been working to develop a new British Standard Code of Practice that will be published in 2015.

EUROPEAN TRADE ASSOCIATIONS

CoESS

BSIA is an active member of CoESS (The Confederation of European Security Services), which is a trade association representing the European manned guarding services. BSIA currently chairs its Critical Infrastructure group and represents on the security monitoring group. BSIA is a CoESS Board member.

Euralarm

BSIA is an active member of Euralarm, which is a trade association representing the European electronic security sector. BSIA currently represents on its Security Systems section responsible focusing on European standardization and product certification across the EU. BSIA is a Euralarm Board member.