

Fire Alarm System Grade

Grade A - Separate detectors, sounders and central control and indicating equipment with back-up power supply that conforms to British Standards BS EN 54.

Grade C - Separate detectors and sounders that are mains powered with backup power supply and central control equipment.

Grade D1 - A system of one or more mains powered detectors, each with a tamperproof standby supply consisting of a battery or batteries.

Grade D2 - A system of one or more mains powered detectors, each with an integral standby supply consisting of a user replaceable battery or batteries.

Grade F1 - A system of one or more battery powered detectors powered by a tamper proof primary battery or batteries.

Grade F2 - A system of one or more battery powered detectors powered by a user replaceable primary battery or batteries.

Fire Alarm System Category

LD1 Maximum Protection - **Escape routes, high risk rooms plus all areas where a fire might start**

LD2 Additional Protection - **Escape routes plus high risk rooms**

LD3 Minimum Protection - **Escape routes only**

Category L1 - L1 systems are the "ultimate" in life protection as they recommend both manual call points (MCPs) and automatic fire detection be installed throughout the entire premises.

Category L2 - While the fire risks in rooms opening onto escape routes should be taken into consideration for L3 systems, this can often be done by common sense or in discussion with the client. L2 systems, however, require that a thorough Fire Risk Assessment (FRA) be carried out by a competent person to identify areas of high fire risk.

Category L3 - In addition to MCPs throughout and optical automatic fire detection in escape routes, Category L3 stipulates automatic fire detection be installed in all rooms, corridors and compartments that open onto escape routes.

Category L4 - Building on Category M, L4 has MCPs throughout the building for occupants to manually identify a fire while automatic fire detection should be installed along escape routes including stairwells.

Category L5 - Similar to L2, this Category can only be designed and installed based on the findings of a thorough FRA - except that L5 should not actually be attempted by designers or installers unless specified in the FRA.

Category L5/M - This should be considered a combination of a full Category M system (MCPs and alarm devices throughout) with additional automatic fire detection or other specialised systems in specified locations outside the scope of the other Categories but with the intention of protecting life.

Category P1 - This type of system is designed to protect the entire building, and thus requires automatic fire detection throughout the premises. While not dependent on a thorough fire risk assessment (FRA), a FRA is helpful for designing P1 systems, as appropriate detectors will need to be installed in each room to cover the specific risks present. However, as it is focused on the protection of property, alarm devices (sounders, beacons, bells, voice alarms, etc) are only required where specified - in an on-site security office, for example.

Category P1/M - The addition of /M does not stipulate that "some" MCP are necessary, it indicates that a full Category M system should be combined with a full Category P1 system. This means there should be automatic fire detection, MCPs, and alarm devices installed throughout the entire building.

Category P2 - Category P2 requires automatic fire detection in high risk areas, only. Category P2 systems are commonly used when combining with a life protection system other than Category M. For example, a building may have Category L3 protection for escape routes and adjoining rooms, with additional automatic fire detection in the server room that is not directly connected to an escape route.

Category P2/M - These systems require automatic fire detection as specified by P2 with MCPs and alarm devices throughout the building as per a standalone Category M installation.