

AUTOMATIC GATES WHO IS RESPONSIBLE!

Who is ultimately responsible for the automatic gate system? The owner of the property or system is ultimately responsible for it and its performance, operation and any consequential issue, loss or claim! Damage to property or injury to persons or animals!



But what if? What if the system is under maintenance? What if it is under warranty? What if it was installed by different people or companies? What if part of it was original or existing etc.? The fact is that under any and all of these, only the owner of the property has final control over the site, the system, who looks after it and the use of it!

What do you mean? The owner has final control over the property and what goes on there, who uses the system and how it is likely to be used. It is the owners wish that a site may be private or otherwise, whether for even just a short time or continuously. A property may have different uses throughout the year or caters for a single event that is not usual (fete, party, sports social, parking aid, wedding etc.).



So what, surely this is common to all systems? In some way or another it is. Every installation should be designed and installed to accommodate reasonable probable eventualities, but only the owner will know quite how often and how much he or she is prepared to invest in the consequences.

What is meant by invest in? The values of every system are relevant to its design and quality of build. Each varies dramatically depending upon numerous options and provisions across each aspect of the whole system. The more you have the more it will cost! The less spent the higher the risk and risk increases with use or likelihood of misuse or abuse (manmade or natural).



Light duty systems facing heavy use or little abuse are more prone to failure and risk of loss or injury, so that a design chosen on price alone will leave the owner more exposed to the risks. This is often regardless of any service offer or maintenance agreement in place, as abuse can easily be claimed even if unproven, potentially voiding any cover?



What if we face loss from an incident, should having maintenance cover us? It will be a great help, but no guarantee. The system should be serviced, tested and given a qualified inspection with all relevant recommendations under taken; it should be undamaged and used correctly for the maintenance company to accept any likely level of responsibility. Proof of this could be difficult without clear and honest records.

Have the system designed & installed correctly and maintained for the long term requirements of the site, with adequate records kept and good servicing undertaken.

Every day people enjoy using a well maintained system that owners rely upon!