

Chapter One

POWER OPERATED ENTRANCE SYSTEM DESIGN GUIDE

1st Published 1992

Update Dec 2015 draft 2.4

Introduction

This guide is recommended to give general assistance when designing an external power operated entrance system. With so many options in all the main areas of design, *no two systems are, or have ever been, identical*, all having some variation that is normally critical to the customer's requirement, system performance and service support.

The main products covered are: *Automatic Gate & Barrier systems*.

More detail is available upon request and via our web site, *please contact us before the design is agreed or any work begins on site!* We would also appreciate any feedback, so that we can continue to improve the service this document has to offer.

The sooner you make contact the better chance of providing a best-value-for-money long term solution across the whole installation (including civil & building works).

NB. All photos are for guidance use only and do not all represent current or recommended practice



WHY IS THIS DOCUMENT IMPORTANT?

Many gate system customers are in fact 1st time buyers or may have some limited experience with a previous system? They are often unfamiliar with many if not all aspects and requirements needed for the correct installation of a well-designed, safe and reliable system, that is both maintainable and fit for purpose.

'A little knowledge may be a dangerous thing' is very true with this complex subject as some enquirers gain basic information from a friend or neighbour's system. People's site locations, expectations and needs, vary so widely. Numerous options need to be carefully considered before a successful result may be found.

Example; 6" of snow could well cause issues with most domestic and even multi-user systems. However a Russian client that has lived in Siberia may consider 6" or even 12" of snow nothing more than a light dusting and would not accept snow as a reason for the gate not to operate. Such a customer should then invest in a far greater specification than would normally be accepted/afforded by most domestic customers in the UK.

Systems offer levels of Safety and Security as well as many other benefits and occasionally disadvantages. The right mix is always a balance between options and products throughout the whole design and any one could cause the entire system to fail jeopardising both Safety and Security as a direct result.

It remains a fact that; **Safety & Security contradict** each other with **Cosmetics & Reliability** often **opposing** each other!

Realistic **Life Time Ownership Cost**, meeting the requirements of up-to-date standards and H&SE guidelines are a constant challenge. Under engineering is the most common cause of system failure, poor performance and long term ownership cost! Short cuts with good engineering or products, always cost far more throughout any system's reliable life.

It is vital that your entrance system is and remains safe for you, your visitors and the general public alike.

This free advice should in the long term, save money and help provide a more reliable and safer system. It is worth reminding enquirers that 'Like for Like' quotes do not truly exist but many can be presented to look the same, especially to the un-trained eye!

Most freeholders are not aware that it is their responsibility to ensure their power operated product is and remains safe. That it is maintained and any consequential injury or damage caused from or by it is their liability to defend.

