

Norfolk & Suffolk Crime Prevention

Guidance Note

CCTV information



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Our Priority is You

Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Information

Closed Circuit Television is often used to provide additional security to a particular venue. It is often praised as being a 'solve all' tool – *this is certainly not the case*. Coupled with improved maintenance of Landscaping and Lighting, it may be of more use.

The Crime Reduction Officer for your area can offer further advice on the use of CCTV if required. What is essential is that, when asking for a CCTV System, you prepare an 'Operational Requirement'- in which you should specify what you are trying to achieve and the standards you need to achieve. These standards are often confused and huge faith is put in a camera that is not correctly specified. The system should be set up with consideration of the following four main headings:-

Identification

Images captured on CCTV need to be of an evidential quality. They need to be of not less than 120%R Standard to be used in evidence to identify an Intruder. This basically means that the Image would be from the top of a person's head to just below his knees and fill about 60% of the screen. For evidential standards of image you should request that your system meets British Standard BS 8495 in order to have confidence that any images produced will

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hold sufficient weight in a Court of Law. Any remotely monitored, detector activated CCTV system should be specified to meet British Standard 8418.

Recognition

Often the system captures images of visitors at each entrance less than the 120%R Standard. Having captured your intruder at this standard when they move about your venue and then become an offender your standard can be reduced to a 50%R level. You will still be able to identify them from your initial 120%R image.

We would also urge you to have your system independently assessed by a "Secured by Design" Member Company such as "IN FOCUS".

Detection

To detect a particular crime the standard required, any Image will need to be not less than 10%R Screen height.

Monitor

To merely monitor any environment the Image Standard required is not less than 5%R Screen height.

To set up your system a professional installer will use a standard template of a figure referred to as ROTAKIN. This conforms to British Standard BS: EN 50132-7:1996. The Image Standard percentages are frequently referred to as 120% R for example.



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Often organisations have a Camera System that is installed to monitor or detect but they make the fundamental mistake of expecting it to recognize or identify.

There is a huge difference between 5% and 120%.

This is why we advise using the 'Secured by Design' Website and using an Operational Requirement.

It is also important to be able to have staff that can access the images and export them for evidential use. Most new systems provide this facility but some staff training may be required. The storage facility needs to be in a secure private location and it is recommended that you make visitors fully aware of the system. Often this is deterrent enough. The dark tinted high speed dome camera fittings of course have the benefit of giving the impression that they cover a 360 degree view.

CCTV FAQ

Q. Do I need a licence for CCTV?

A. No, not for a stand alone system. Most people only have a couple of cameras to cover outside their own home. There are no rules that apply within the boundaries of your own land.

Q. Should I have Colour or Black and White Cameras?

A. Most reasonable quality cameras are colour during daylight hours then switch to black and white during darkness. Obviously at night if there is no lighting or Infra-Red facility on the camera then it is unlikely that images will be able to be obtained. The better the lighting or camera, the better the image will be from it. A colour camera is more useful for identification due to colours of clothing, hair etc.

Q. Do I need a lot of Cameras?

A. No, normally only the outside/entrances of premises need to be covered. As previously mentioned, the better quality the camera the larger coverage and better quality you receive.

Q. Does it have to be recorded?

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A. The short answer is no, but you then need to be watching the screen all the time to see the incident/intruder. If it is recording then at least there is a chance of identifying any offenders and having a witness that cannot lie. Most recorders are now digital, so you don't have to change tapes/discs every few hours. They run on a recording loop that records over itself after an adjustable time period.

Q. Is it very expensive?

A. Every application is different and so there will be several differing costs. The quality of the cameras and recorders obviously impact on the price. The main thing to remember is to ensure any system is fit for the purpose. Remember, if you think you need CCTV then ensure it can do what you want it to. If the images are no good, there is no point having the cameras.

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