



Fire Alarm Systems Certification

- Design
- Installation
- Commissioning and Handover
- Maintenance



SSAIB operates a modular certification scheme for providers of fire alarm and detection systems. This scheme was designed for providers involved in one or more of the following areas:

- Design
- Installation
- Commissioning and Handover
- Maintenance

The modular approach allows more than one company to be involved in providing the installation. It enables a certificate to be issued for the whole system, based on modular certification by providers at each level. This modular approach was developed to reflect the way in which the fire detection and alarm industry operates.

SSAIB operates this scheme under licence from BAFE, in accordance with their standard SP203. The aim of the modular approach is to ensure that providers can only gain certification for those modules in which they can demonstrate appropriate levels of competence, process control and are adequately resourced to effectively undertake work within their scope of certification.

SSAIB certification

SSAIB certifies companies against a single set of criteria as laid down by BAFE in document SP203 and has not introduced other levels of demarcation between providers based upon quality management systems (QMS) certification.

This scheme requires that the certificated company operates a quality management system which must be in accordance with the BAFE criteria. However, your management system is not required to be certificated to an ISO 9001 quality management scheme, although a company having a system certificated to ISO 9001 shall be considered as meeting the requirements of the scheme.

Many providers operate efficient and effective businesses with quality management systems not formally accredited to ISO 9001 but that are perfectly compatible with their business needs. However, SSAIB is able to provide ISO 9001: 2000 certification if a more formal approach is required.

SSAIB has wide UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service) accreditation, which means that our approach is subject to independent scrutiny and validation against international standards.

The market and your business

The need for certificated fire detection and alarms systems is ever expanding as changes introduced under the new Fire Safety Order and the Chief Fire Officers Association's (CFOA) Policy for remotely monitored fire alarm systems are progressively introduced.

The CFOA Policy became effective on 1st April 2005 and will be fully enforced by 1st April 2008. It requires the issue of a unique reference number (URN) for all remotely monitored fire alarm (RMFA) systems that are routed through an Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC) prior to being passed to the Fire and Rescue Service. The RMFA must have a URN and all systems and ARCs must be subject to appropriate certification. All services providers will need to be Third Party Certificated.

The Fire Safety Order places increased emphasis on risk assessment carried out by, or on behalf of, the 'Responsible Person' in an organisation. Employers will ultimately be responsible for safety in the workplace and for the systems upon which it is dependent. Increasingly, assurance will come in the form of certification issued by Third Party Certificated providers of fire alarm and detection systems.

Given the above, Third Party Certification is not just desirable but essential for all professional fire alarm systems providers. SSAIB certification demonstrates that you operate a well managed and ethical business. We can keep you informed of changes within this sector, plus you will have access to technical experts who will be able to help you to interpret standards, regulations and systems requirements.

Scheme Modules

The full criteria of assessment at each level are detailed in the Scheme specification, and only a brief overview is given here:

Systems Design - the designer(s) will be named and have clear authority for the project and its compliance with standards, interfaces with other elements of building services, structures and connection to electrical supplies. Comprehensive design records shall be maintained and available to those responsible for other



Our credentials

Our credentials are as important as yours when it comes to selling your fire and security services.

The important points are:

- We are accredited to certificate companies to the requirements of BAFE SP203. Moreover, we are a leading certification body for all fire and security service providers.
- We have extensive UKAS accreditation for a wide range of schemes.
- We are an independent, not-for-profit organisation, governed by a Board drawn from a wide range of industry stakeholders.



modules. Provision for design input must continue until the project is commissioned and a Certificate of Compliance issued.

Installation - The installer shall demonstrate competence and an ability to meet the requirements of all relevant standards and codes of practice. In addition, a comprehensive understanding of electrical, mechanical and other safety issues relevant to the installation is required. Comprehensive installation records must also be maintained, with clear notification that the installation is considered complete and is certificated. Installation records must be available to other module suppliers.

Commissioning and Handover - Those responsible for this phase must demonstrate an in-depth understanding of all aspects of the equipment that is to be tested, commissioned and handed over. Comprehensive test, commissioning and configuration records shall be kept and made available to other module suppliers.

Maintenance – A provider should demonstrate its competence to maintain the installed equipment and understand the specified requirements. The provider must have adequate resource to undertake the maintenance work to which it is committed. Comprehensive records of the maintenance programme and work undertaken must be kept.

Title (Mr/Miss/Mrs/Ms): _____

First Name: _____

Surname: _____

Company: _____

Position: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Tel: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Areas of Interest:

Please tick appropriate box

- Intruder Alarms
- CCTV Systems
- Access Control Systems
- Other (please state): _____

Please send me:

- Application pack
- Information pack
- Please contact me to discuss



SSAIB
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Why Choose SSAIB Certification?

Standards and Guidance- SSAIB provides guidance and support to certificated companies and their clients on standards and technical issues. We can help you to keep up-to-date with news of changes, which might impact upon your business, through publications, workshop and training events. As a Certification Body we participate in technical standards and regulations development to ensure that they are workable and relevant to the needs of the industry and the marketplace.

Insurance Approval - insurers frequently require confirmation that a fire alarm and detection system has been installed by a competent certificated provider; this may be a condition of cover.

Regulatory Authority Recognition - various Authorities, not least the fire and local authorities, need confidence that fire detection and alarm systems are 'fit for purpose' and look to third party certification for that assurance.

Third Party Certification – this demonstrates your confidence and competence as a company. Opening your business to independent scrutiny and inspection is the mark of a responsible and professional company. You will be proud to display the SSAIB logo as your mark of success.

Listing of certificated companies - SSAIB produces and promotes a listing of certificated companies in a directory format and on our website. Purchasers, specifiers and users of fire and security services can access the contact details of all certificated providers regionally and/or through a skill search.

www.ssaib.org

Security in Safe Hands

If you would like more information on SSAIB Certification for any of the schemes listed below, contact us or return the prepaid card attached. We will be pleased to discuss any aspect of fire or security systems certification with you.

- Intruder Alarm Systems
- ARC Monitoring
- Guarding Security Services
- Keyholding and Response
- Installation and Remote Monitoring of Detector
- Activated CCTV
- CCTV Management and Operations
- Access Control Systems
- Exterior Deterrent Systems
 - Social Alarms
 - Door Supervision and Stewards

Contact us

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