



BS8629:2019

The new BS8629 standard which is dated November 2019 and is becoming important for System manufacturers and installers is now in force.

BS8629 is a new code of practice for the design, installation, commissioning and maintenance of evacuation alert systems. This new British Standard provides guidance on how to install a communication system that advises residents of flats to evacuate.

Typically, these systems are for high-rise blocks of flats, but the scope of this British Standard includes systems installed in any building containing flats, regardless of height.

After the Grenfell fire and subsequently the Hackett Report, this is the first additional guidance affecting emergency evacuation systems within flats to be published, and BDS will be ensuring that we adhere to the guidelines to remain compliant if we are to design, install and commission these.

Not to be confused with fire detection and alarm systems, evacuation alert systems are for use by the fire and rescue service only, which may, in the course of managing a fire incident, want residents to evacuate sections of a floor (in a large building), individual floors, or the entire building. Using an evacuation alert system, residents can be directed to evacuate via alarms sounded in each flat.

This standard exists to help ensure that systems are fit for purpose and to encourage uniformity. If systems look and function the same way in every building, firefighters won't waste any time understanding how they work.

2020 will see these being recommended for new build flats and may be also retro fitted into existing buildings if considered some help to the evacuation procedure for firefighters.

The team at BDS