

BSIA capability statement



THE VOICE OF THE PROFESSIONAL SECURITY INDUSTRY

British Security Industry Association – overview

The **British Security Industry Association** (BSIA) was formed in 1967 at the request of the **Home Office** for a body to be formed to represent the security industry. Today its members are responsible for more than 70% of UK security products and services (by turnover) including the manufacture, distribution and installation of electronic and physical security equipment and the provision of security officer services.

Organisation

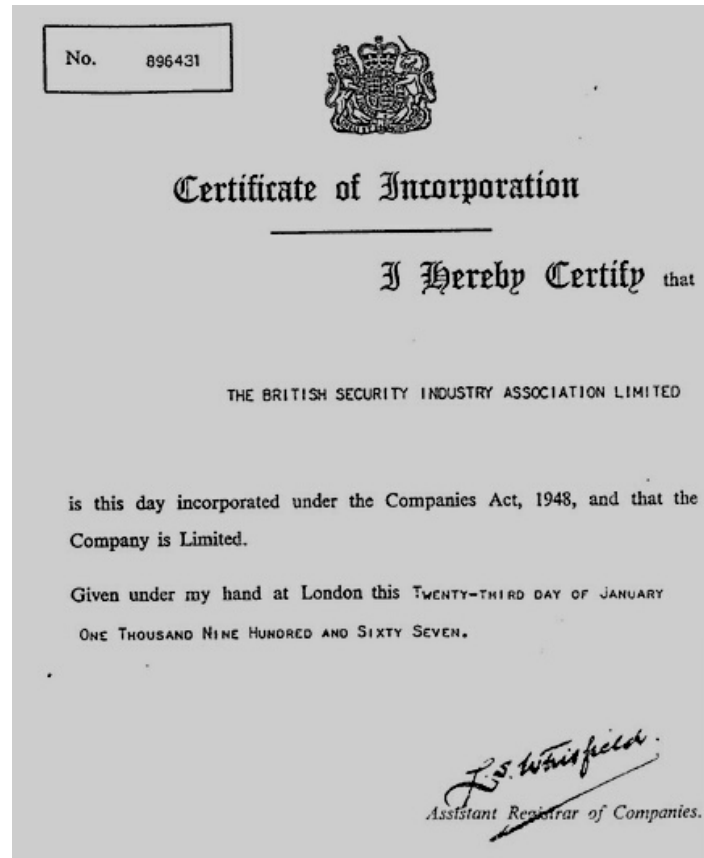
The BSIA is dedicated to the improvement of standards and innovation within the UK security industry, and it does this through:

Strict criteria for our membership:

- All members must be certificated to the latest version of ISO 9001 with a UKAS accredited certification body.
- They must comply with relevant British and European Standards and Codes of Practice.
- They must provide two years' trading accounts to prove that they are financially sound.
- They must ensure that they are technically well informed and competent.
- They must provide evidence that their business is conducted in a professional and ethical manner with all directors vetted for employment history, bankruptcy, and disqualification checks.
- They must be committed to quality training and development.

Membership commitment to improvement of standards and innovation is achieved by the members being allocated to sections representing the main area of their business with members often belonging to several sections where their business has a range of security activities. Sections are member led, meet on a regular basis, and are involved in industry issues, Codes of Practice, development of British, European and International Standards and training.

The BSIA is a major shareholder in **Skills for Security**, the main sector skills body for the private security industry. Skills for Security are a leading provider of sector apprenticeships as well as providing bespoke training courses and assessment services for the security industry.



Capabilities

The security industry is extremely diverse in its skills, products, and services and the BSIA is organised into sections to represent this diversity and focus member activity on innovation and development of standards.

Its sections are:



Access & Asset Protection

A restructuring of BSIA Sections in April 2015 saw the launch of the **Access and Asset Protection Section (AAP)** which has member companies involved in the manufacture, supply and installation of solutions that restrict, control and monitor the movement of people, assets or vehicles in, out and around buildings and sites. This includes the physical protection methods such as security doors, fencing, locks, barriers, safes, strong rooms, ATM security, rising screens, etc and the electronic access control systems that control them and allow authorised persons in and keep undesired people out.

From a security perspective many of the design considerations needed for the physical protection and electronic systems are the same and member companies involved in both aspects now work closely together. An example of this is ensuring, by guidance and training, a match of performance so that a strong door is not defeated by attacking a weak access control installation. Equally, design of facilities to consider fire evacuation and enabling accessibility by disabled persons requires an integrated approach. The section is well positioned to provide guidance on these matters, to lobby for consistent standards and regulations, and liaise with other bodies such as insurers and specifiers.

The BSIA's AAP Section members will represent all aspects of the sector's work from manufacture, distribution, supply, system design, installation, and maintenance.

Access control products range from token-based systems and digital keypads, through to biometric identification systems and the associated hardware. Such products are subject to fast-moving technological development. A major focus of the BSIA Access Control members is to raise awareness amongst end-users and specifiers of the different types of equipment that is available, the most appropriate environments for using them and the added value features that the systems can provide to offset the costs of security.

The Association is heavily involved in the development of standards at a National, European, and international level.

The section also has its own technical committee consisting of member companies that provide specific technical input on matters of key importance to the section.





Alarm Receiving Centre

The BSIA **Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC)** section was created in 2022 to bring together companies operating within the ARC value chain. This encompasses not only ARCs themselves, but also providers of ARC related services, such as software platform authors and signalling/connectivity providers.

The ARC marketplace is going through transition, for example with the migration to an All-IP telecommunication network and increased adoption of cloud technologies.

This section brings together a diverse range of viewpoints to help drive the ARC marketplace forwards, helping ensure best practice is adopted and end users appreciate the value of a robust and resilient monitored security solution.

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Asset Property Marking

BSIA **Asset and Property Marking (APM)** section members have the common goal of deterring theft and other crimes by rendering stolen goods useless through covert or overt security marking. Forensic marking enables police to catch and convict criminals, thus creating a powerful deterrent.

The BSIA APM Section focuses on raising the profile of this sector of the industry to maximise usage, as well as generally increasing awareness of the existence of marking systems and how they work.

Other important priorities for this group include developing and promoting relevant industry standards, such as BS 10121 - Asset marking products, vehicles, and associated equipment, and highlighting important issues to authorities such as police, insurance companies and the Home Office.



Cash & Valuables in Transit

Cash and Valuables in Transit (CViT) companies are involved in transporting, storing, and sorting cash and other valuables, typically for retail and financial organisations as well as the public sector. They play a vital role in replenishing and protecting cash supplies for the business world and the wider community, keeping the economy running.

CViT operatives are licensed under the Private Security Industry Act, adding to their high standards of training and security. A range of CViT services are available to suit the different needs of small, medium, and large companies.

A major focus of the BSIA's work involves liaison with the police to ensure effective intelligence gathering, collation of up-to-date statistics and valuable joint initiatives.



Police liaison and intelligence sharing is facilitated through the BSIA's SaferCash Initiative which is approved by the Home Office and endorsed by the **National Police Chiefs' Council**. Funded by members of the CViT Section, six seconded police staff operating within the key affected regions work closely with UK Policing and the CViT industry to help reduce the number of attacks on cash-in-transit couriers through the effective sharing of intelligence nationwide. As a result of police / industry collaboration, CViT attacks have reduced from 1059 in 2007 when **SaferCash** was introduced, to thirty-six in 2022. This is a direct result of the intelligence and more sophisticated security measures put in place over this time.

Attacks mean that our couriers have suffered injuries resulting from shootings, stabbings, pistol whippings and severe beatings, not to mention post-traumatic stress. This has a lasting effect on the individuals involved, their work colleagues and their families.



Crowd Management

Securing the UK's large events such as concerts, festivals and sports matches are imperative to ensuring that events run smoothly, spectators remain safe, and any incidents are dealt with quickly and effectively.

The BSIA's **Crowd Management** Section (CM) represents security companies which offer the provision of stewarding and safety personnel at indoor and outdoor events.



Export Council

The **Export Council (EC)** is a section within the BSIA acting as a forum for fostering and nurturing robust relationships between the UK's security industry and international stakeholders. It serves as an invaluable gateway for foreign contacts eager to forge partnerships, become customers or act as distributors for UK companies.



Exporting remains a cornerstone of success for UK security firms and the BSIA's proactive networking initiatives, including the 'Meet the Buyers' event and prominent presence at **IFSEC**, continue to establish and reinforce such links.

Collaborating closely with government bodies such as the **Department for Business and Trade**, **UK Defence & Security Exports** and **JSaRC** (Joint Security and Resilience Centre, a part of the Home Office Security Group), the BSIA ensures that its members can actively contribute to shaping national strategy and seize opportunities to enhance their global trade endeavours.



Information Destruction

The BSIA **Information Destruction (ID)** Section consists of companies that securely destroy a range of confidential information, including paper, DVDs, and computer hard drives. The section also destroys items that could potentially cause problems if they fall into the wrong hands, such as branded products and uniforms.

The section highlights the importance of information destruction for businesses and the benefits of using a quality supplier. With identity fraud rising, sensitive information and data needs to be destroyed properly otherwise confidential details can be put at risk.

The ID section's work is particularly relevant to the Data Protection Act. Every Data Controller using an information destruction company is required to choose a supplier which provides sufficient guarantees of security measures, including destruction being carried out under contract and evidenced in writing. All BSIA Information Destruction companies offer this quality guarantee.

Section members work to a European Standard for the secure destruction of confidential material (EN 15713 - Secure destruction of confidential and sensitive material) in addition to their ISO 9001 or ISO 27001 inspections.



Lone Worker

The BSIA's **Lone Worker Section (LW)** consists of BSIA members who specialise in providing lone worker safety products and services to customers from a wide range of industry backgrounds. More than six million people in the UK work either in isolation or without direct supervision, often in places or circumstances that put them at potential risk, either regularly or occasionally.

Lone working can be both intimidating and at times dangerous, so the protection of lone workers involves a twofold approach; not only to provide safeguards but also to offer reassurance to the people involved.



The development of British Standard BS 8484, a Code of Practice for the provision of Lone Worker Services, has been a key element of the security industry's work to create such solutions. BS 8484 is employed and adhered to by all credible suppliers in the industry and forms the basis for police response to lone worker systems as well as part of a UKAS accredited certification scheme.



Security Equipment Manufacturers

BSIA **Security Equipment Manufacturers (SEM)** are at the forefront of developing technology, producing a wide variety of products and services for applications in commercial, residential and industrial environments. The function of these systems, which are primarily intruder and hold-up alarm systems, can and does integrate to related services such as security fogging devices, VSS, access control and IoT, to deliver the benefits of effective security, which are to prevent, deter and detect crime.

A major focus of the section is to ensure that appropriate standards are produced for the sector. A key challenge has been working to ensure that British and European standards for components such as detectors, sensors and control panels meet the requirements of UK customers and manufacturers.

The section has also played a key role in lobbying to rationalise testing and certification procedures across Europe and to encourage cross-border agreements – to avoid the need for products to undergo costly multiple re-testing in several different countries before it can be distributed in those parts of the world. The section also has its own technical committee consisting of member companies that provide specific technical input on matters of key importance to the section. Members of the section pride themselves in offering a complete quality service to customers, including accurate product information, practical installation advice, ongoing security updates and patches and comprehensive guarantees.

Security Officer Services

Security Officer Services (SOS) members protect people and property in a wide variety of environments – factories and warehouses, offices, shopping centres, hospitals, airports, concert, and sports venues.

The growing responsibilities of these personnel, and their increasing public interface, intensified calls for government regulation of the sector which have been wholeheartedly supported by the BSIA. This culminated in the introduction of the Private Security Industry Act 2001, which in turn has led to licensing of security officers by the **Security Industry Authority**.



The work undertaken by Security Officers has tended to be viewed as a 'grudge purchase', with many customers looking to purchase at the lowest cost and not necessarily considering how this will affect the calibre and retention of personnel, working conditions and a security company's ability to provide a consistent quality of service.

The BSIA launched a campaign during 2022 called **People, Property, Places: Professionally Protected**, to increase the profile and awareness of the crucial work that security officers carry out 24/7 in keeping us safe. It highlights the benefits of a career in the sector with its diverse pathways, training, and qualifications to perform their role. BSIA recognises the bravery and skill set of security officers in its prestigious awards ceremony, the **British Security Awards** each year, attended by industry professionals and dignitaries.

Security Systems

BSIA Security Systems (SS) companies are involved in the installation and maintenance of intruder and hold-up alarm systems. The approach of the police and insurers has a major impact on standards and processes that companies have to follow, as well as public attitudes towards alarm systems. Consequently, the BSIA spends a great deal of time liaising with organisations such as the **National Police Chiefs' Council**, **Police Scotland**, and the **RISC Authority** insurer group to uphold the high standards needed by members.



The BSIA also plays a vital role in the involvement in standards development for intruder & hold-up alarms systems and works with the inspection and accredited certification bodies to ensure that the industry's needs and demands are met.

As the industry moves forward, embracing and integrating different types of technology, such as access control, VSS and IoT to alarm systems, they are becoming increasingly important in ensuring system integrity and functionality are maintained. BSIA members have an advanced understanding of changes in the industry and are notified in advance of any changes to the standards, to ensure their clients receive an effective security solution. The section also has its own technical committee consisting of member companies that provide specific technical input on matters of key importance to the section.

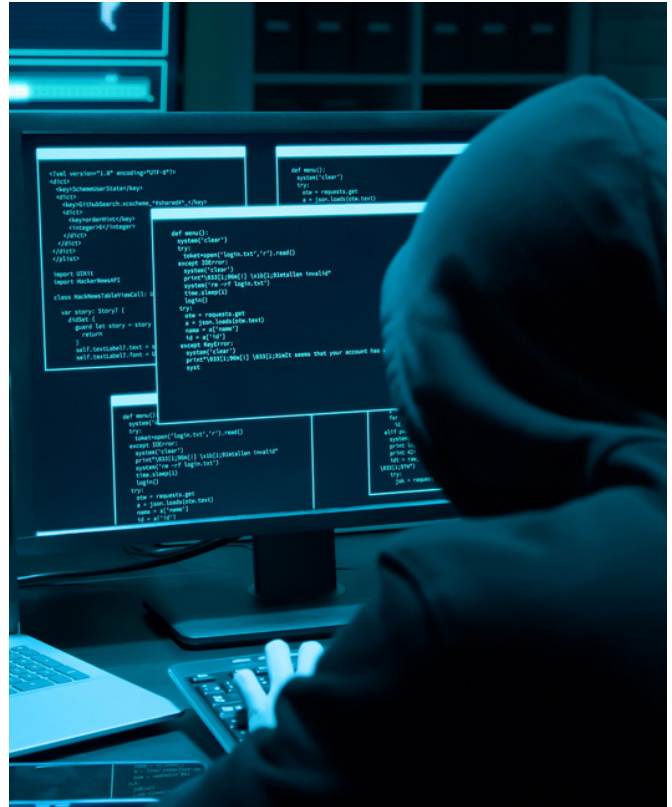


Specialist Services

The BSIA's **Specialist Services Section (Sp)** was launched in November 2013. The section consists of members that offer specialist services including close protection, technical surveillance counter measures, surveillance, IT forensics, cyber security and security consulting including critical national infrastructure.

The section was created considering the growing international reputation of the UK security sector and its products and services, particularly within the area of specialist security. As well as operating as an overall section, the section also hosts a number of specialist working groups, allowing smaller, but still important, niche areas of the UK security sector to thrive within the Association. These working groups ensure that issues affecting areas of the section are dealt with in a timely manner, along with enhancing cross sector and cross section communication.

Members of the section can assist security buyers with specialist and challenging requirements both in the UK and internationally, such as maritime security, cybersecurity penetration testing and critical national infrastructure protection.



Training Providers

The **Training Providers Section (TP)** of the BSIA was launched in 2012, with membership available exclusively to companies providing quality training to security industry personnel.

The Training Providers' Section is extremely ambitious in its objectives and is committed to working with fellow training providers, colleges, security companies, trade organisations and the Government to drive standards, increase professionalism and ultimately improve the standard of training offered in the security industry.

Members of the section provide sector specific training, apprenticeship courses and recognised qualifications, as well as ongoing CPD courses and lectures.



Vacant Property Protection

The **Vacant Property Protection (VPP)** section was formed in April 2015 (including members formerly in the now closed Property and Asset Protection Section). With an increase in the number of properties remaining empty following the economic downturn members of this section perform a vital role. Members can provide specialist temporary and remotely monitored alarm and video surveillance systems, security patrols, shuttering and other services. Alternatively, member companies can arrange “protection by occupation” that works particularly to prevent problems caused by squatters.



A significant activity of the section is to promote the quality of provision by members and to distinguish their levels of service and reliability from less reputable companies. The section was instrumental in the development of BS 8584 Vacant Property Protection Services to underpin the professionalism of the services they provide to the public.



Video Surveillance Systems

VSS have had a profound impact on crime prevention and detection and are never out of the news for long. The UK leads the way in the application of VSS and its use is wide-ranging, encompassing facial-recognition technology, remote video monitoring, video smoke detection, mobile systems, and automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) as well as many other functions.

BSIA's **Video Surveillance Systems (VSS)** launched a major camera research report in April 2022, exclusive to members, called *The Bigger Picture* which forms an extensive update to the BSIA's research report of 2013 – *The Picture is Not Clear* which has been quoted by trade and mainstream media worldwide, the quality of which has never been surpassed in the intervening time.

To provide guidance and simplification in the complex area of VSS, the BSIA is highly active in the British, European, and international standards arena and also develops its own guides and codes of practice where currently standards do not exist. It is essential that satisfactory standards are in place to cover the installation, maintenance, monitoring, video image storage and operation of VSS equipment and services. Rapid technological development renders this complex, with a need for standards work to be timely.

The section also has its own technical committee consisting of member companies that provide specific technical input on matters of key importance to the section. Significant improvements have been made in recent years in terms of image quality and the sector continues to move towards digital and networked systems as technology progresses. The section encourages debate on new developments and concerns, such as digital video evidence, facial recognition, cybersecurity, and AI development. In doing so it seeks to ensure that all stakeholder interests are represented including security companies, users, the police, inspectorates, and insurers. The section also works with Government on these issues and BSIA is a core contributor to the Biometric & Surveillance Camera Commissioner's Advisory Council and Standards Board.

VSS must be operated responsibly to respect citizens' rights and maintain public confidence. More recently BSIA developed a guide on the ethical use of facial recognition technology (FRT), which has been received well both on the UK, Europe, and the USA. The guide has also been used as a baseline for a British standard on the ethical application of FRT, published in 2023. Laws such as the Data Protection Act (incorporating GDPR) have an important role to play in achieving this. BSIA VSS companies drive best practice in this area and can provide advice on how VSS users can adhere to the relevant legislation and standards.

European Trade Associations

BSIA is an active member of **CoESS** (The Confederation of European Security Services), which is a trade association representing the European security officer services. BSIA has a position on the Board of CoESS and represents on the security monitoring committee.

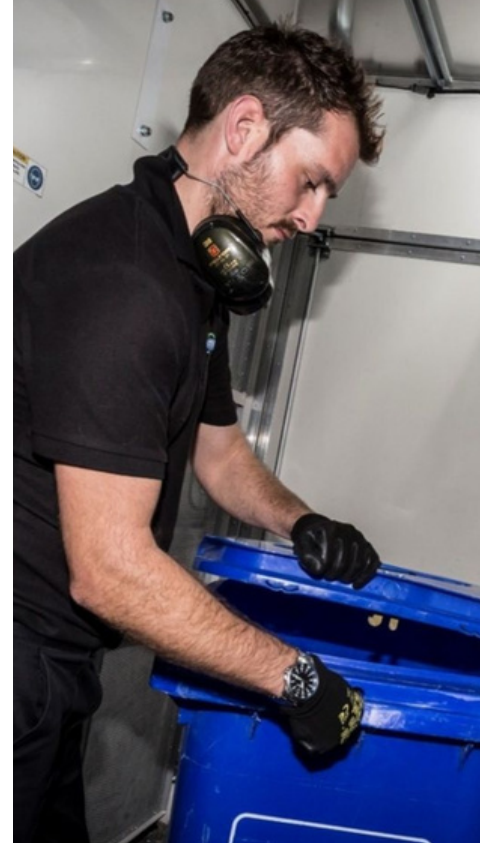


BSIA is an active member of **Euralarm**, which is a trade association representing the European electronic security sector. BSIA currently represents on its Security Systems, and Security Services sections responsible for manufacturer, installer, and monitoring service provision across Europe for all types of electronic security systems.

Our vision and mission

The BSIA is the voice of the professional security industry, supporting and encouraging excellence; educating the marketplace on the value of quality and professional security. Creating an environment in which to flourish.

BSIA Membership is the symbol of quality and professionalism in the security industry and recognised on a local and international scale.



About the BSIA

The British Security Industry Association (BSIA) is the trade association representing over 70% of the UK's private security industry. Its membership includes companies specialising in all sectors of security. For security buyers, BSIA membership is an assurance of quality, with all member companies required to adhere to strict quality standards.



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