

WIRELESS FIRE DETECTION

EN54-23 Visual Alarm Devices (VAD's)

A new standard, EN54 Part 23, for Visual Alarm Devices (VADs), introduced in December 2013, specifies the requirements, test methods and performance criteria for VADs in fire detection systems.

VADs now have to comply with the precise specification of this standard and EMS has introduced a new range of wireless VADs that are fully compliant with these new requirements.

Existing "beacons" on FireCell systems can be upgraded in just a few minutes simply by changing the beacon with a compliant VAD element, using the existing wireless base. Additional VADs can easily be installed in areas identified by a Risk Assessment. *A quick and easy way to meet the standard.*

As each wireless VAD has two on board power supplies there is no need to worry about power requirements, complex loop calculations and changes to the wiring infrastructure. FireCell supports up to 126 wireless devices per loop regardless of the type of device installed.

What if I have wired system?

One of the benefits of a wireless system is that the wireless infrastructure to support VADs can be implemented almost immediately, whereas typically a wired system, with around 80% loop capacity, might only be able to support up to 5 VADs per loop due to the higher power requirements to meet the new standard.

Wired systems, therefore, may require additional loop wiring, additional loop cards or even a larger panel, none of which would be required using a wireless system.

Battery calculations for standby will also need to be addressed in wired systems to ensure the additional VADs can be powered for the prescribed timings documented in BS-5839 which may lead to additional power supplies being required.

All this may entail significant cost and time investment.

In such a case interfacing an EMS FireCell panel to the main control panel that is used solely to drive VADs could potentially offer a simpler and lower cost solution as each wireless loop can drive up to 126 VADs. These can be either ceiling or wall mounted depending on the area and risk in question.

Call 01227 369570 now to learn more about how EMS can help you meet EN54-23.

