



Geoff Tate Chief Executive SSAIB

The IFSEC exhibition is a significant event in the year of the security industry at large and the SSAIB is no different in this respect. Exhibiting at IFSEC (stand K127) is by far the biggest investment we make in terms of promoting the SSAIB to the industry, police, insurers and specifiers of security systems. This year we will, for the first time, be exhibiting at the International Fire Expo which is held biennially with IFSEC.

The SSAIB stand at Fire Expo (Stand MO2) reflects the expansion of our activities into the certification of organisations designing, installing commissioning and maintaining fire detection and alarm systems. SSAIB is now licensed to certificate organisations in accordance with the requirements of the BAFF SP 203 scheme, further information on this scheme is included elsewhere in the newsletter.

In addition to extending the scope of our UKAS accreditation to include the BAFF scheme we have also been successful in adding BS 8418 detector operated CCTV systems to our scope. This is another significant advance, as organisations certificated in accordance with this scheme can obtain URN's for CCTV systems installed and monitored in accordance with the requirements of BS 8418. We have already certificated several Remote Video Response Centres and installers in accordance with this standard, and we have several others in the pipeline.

The extension of our UKAS accreditation scope to include fire alarm and detection systems and detector operated CCTV systems, essentially completes our current UKAS programme. However, we will continue to extend our accreditation scope as the market demands. If your business requires other schemes, please let me know.

Whilst we do not have any immediate plans for expand further our UKAS accreditation scope, we do need to maintain our existing scopes. UKAS undertake surveillance inspection on us in a very similar way to those we carry out on certificated firms. In addition, a more comprehensive assessment is carried out by UKAS at three year intervals; we are due to have such an inspection in September. It is necessary to continue to direct considerable resources towards maintaining our UKAS accreditation.

Having invested a great deal of our resources firstly, in achieving UKAS accreditation and secondly, in extending our initial accreditation to include the majority of our activities, we are now in a position to direct more resources to other issues. This year will see a considerable investment in promoting the SSAIB and yourselves as competent, professional organisations capable of supplying services of the highest quality in accordance with the requirements of relevant standards.

A range of new literature is being developed to promote SSAIB and to explain why organisations certificated by us should be trusted to provide security (including fire) system and services. The new literature includes a corporate brochure explaining what SSAIB is, our aims and objectives, how we are governed, details of the schemes we offer and how they are operated. The role of UKAS is also explained and UKAS have provided a statement explaining the importance of accreditation. Individual scheme leaflets are also being prepared and finally two leaflets specifically designed to accompany your specifications will be available. All of the literature will be available free of charge albeit we reserve the right to recover costs if someone requires substantial quantities!!

As many of you will be aware, we have not invested in our website for some time and this will be the other area which will receive our attention this year. Our website is being completely updated with a "look and feel" consistent with the new literature. The objective is to develop a site which is easy to navigate whilst providing access to all the information required by registered firms and those wishing to use the services of SSAIB registered firms.

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Many of you will have attended the training sessions we organised in association with Martin Kane on the new European Standards. Those of you who have not attended one of these courses should consider doing so without delay. On the 1st October 2005 it will no longer be acceptable for intruder alarm systems to be installed in accordance with BS 4737 or indeed any other British Standard for intruder alarm systems. After the 1st October all systems must be installed in accordance with the "scheme described in PD 6662: 2004". However if you have quoted for a system to

the requirement of the old standard prior to that date and have evidence of this fact, then the system can be installed to the standard specified in the quotation.

A guidance notice will be issued explaining the issues you need to address when designing, installing and maintaining systems in accordance with the scheme described in PD 6662. None of the issues are particularly problematic but care needs to be taken to ensure systems are properly designed, installed, handed over and commissioned in accordance with PD 6662 and the associated European Standards.

Unfortunately the introduction of a new version of DD 243 in December 2004 complicates matter further. DD 243: 2004 is not very different from the 2002 version but there are subtle changes, which Dave Profit explains elsewhere in this journal. To design a system in such a way that a confirmed alarm is generated, when appropriate, whilst at the same time avoiding the possibility of generating a false confirmed alarm, is not as simple as it may first appear. Great care needs to be taken to avoid the possibility of only an "unconfirmed" alarm being generated in the event of an intrusion. The unsettling requirements have also been subtly changed and these can catch out the unwary!! Once again great care should be taken to select an unsettling option appropriate to the system. This will almost certainly relate to the grade of a system when PD 6662 is introduced in October.

Both ACPO and ACPO(S) have been busy with ACPO(S) introducing a new policy on the 1st January 2005 and ACPO updating their existing policy in April 2005. The new ACPO(S) policy included a significant change in that it now calls up DD 243. Fortunately ACPO made only minor changes to their policy but you should be careful to obtain a copy of your local police policies to check for any changes which might influence your systems or paperwork.

Our success is obviously causing some concern to NSI. During the seminars they ran earlier this year they found it necessary to disparage SSAIB and, by association, the firms we have certificated. Their approach was to attempt to cast doubt on the quality of inspections carried out by SSAIB, inferring that they were to a lesser standard than their own. We have treated these rather shallow attempts to denigrate us with the contempt that they deserve. For our part we intend to maintain our focus on ensuring that our schemes are operated in the correct manner, to the benefit of the clients, the organisations using the services of SSAIB certificated firms, and, ultimately, to the benefit of certificated firms themselves.

Because of our success it has been necessary to find a larger office. Fortunately we have been able to find the space we need by the simple expedient of moving to a larger office in the same building. The move took place over a week during which we also decided to change our Internet Service Provider (ISP). Sadly, the new provider made a hash of the changeover, as whilst the move went without any particular problems, our website, online certification system and email server were inoperative for a period of time. I would like to apologise to all of you who were inconvenienced by this problem, the object of changing the ISP was to make our services more reliable not less! Notwithstanding our initial problem, I am confident the new ISP will indeed provide a more reliable service in the longer term.

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Due to the performance of the firms SSAIB has certificated over the past three years, we are now accepted as a competent professional Certification Body. When seeking approvals for the services it provides, the security industry now has a real choice. This will inevitably cause a sense of disquiet with our competitors. However, we intend, with your support, to continue to build SSAIB into the most successful Certification Body serving the security and fire industry. Our knowledge of the industry and the standards applicable to systems and services is second to none. We intend to continue to offer cost effective schemes operated in a positive manner which contribute to the commercial success of the firms we certificate.

The acceptance by the insurance industry of systems installed by SSAIB certificated firms continues to improve to the point that we now receive very few complaints about this issue. Occasionally, an insurer or broker can still be reluctant to accept an SSAIB certificated firm for large risks. Should this happen, we will do our best to resolve the problem. We continue to take a pro-active approach towards working with the insurance industry. Our objective is to demonstrate to insurers that they should have a positive reason for supporting SSAIB certificated firms and we will achieve this by looking to understand their needs better and aiming to satisfy them.

I started this update by referring to IFSEC, the exhibition is a great opportunity to meet you and I hope many of you will take time to come to IFSEC and Fire Expo and visit the SSAIB stands. As part of our greater focus on promoting the SSAIB we have invested in what I hope will agree is a much improved stand. The new literature will also be available, as will new scheme documentation for any new firms wanting to join the SSAIB community.

I will be at IFSEC all week, with some time devoted to our stand at Fire Expo. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible during these Exhibitions.

Geoff Tate
Chief Executive