

Chris Lewis Fire & Security's Commitment to Gate Safety Legislation and Standards

Electric gates are a popular addition to many homes and businesses, but few people realise that they are installing a piece of equipment that is classed as a *machine*. If not installed correctly by a professional, your gates have the potential to cause serious harm.

Chris Lewis Fire & Security takes its responsibility in the installation of gates very seriously and complies with the most recent gate safety legislation and standards.

New gate legislation

As a result of two separate tragic accidents during the summer of 2010, when two young children died after becoming trapped in powered gates, a comprehensive guide to powered gate safety was published and adopted as best-practice technical guidance by an industry-led campaign to improve automated gate safety.

The guide is published by the Door & Hardware Federation (DHF) with the backing of the Health & Safety Executive (HSE). It is presented as a summary of the current legislation and standards designed to help the industry understand its obligations.

The Guide to Gate Safety Legislation and Standards is available to download from the resources section of the Chris Lewis Fire & Security website.

Our responsibility as an installer

To meet the requirements of the HSE and gate legislation, we will carry out a comprehensive risk assessment of hazards to anyone using the gates prior to design and installation, and then design the gates to eliminate any risks that were identified.

The risk assessment will include:

- The identification of any trapping and/or crushing zones where persons may become trapped and injured
- The identification of ways in which safe operating systems may be defeated or by-passed, and persons at risk. This is particularly relevant where children, members of the public, or persons not familiar with the safe use of any installation have access to electrically powered gates and not recognise a risk to their safety.
- The identification of ways in which persons may be harmed by the gates should they be activated automatically, or by another person (for example, by a sensor under the road surface activating a gate when a car drives over it, or by a remote button or key fob pressed by a third person).

When the installation is complete, we will then complete a final risk assessment and provide the persons responsible for the management and maintenance of the gates with appropriate documentation, instructions for use, and training to operate and maintain the gates safely.

We will also issue a CE mark and an accompanying Declaration of Conformity to show that the gate complies with the European Machinery Directive's Essential Health and Safety Requirements.

Documentation

The Machinery Directive requires several key documents relating to the gate installation to be created in a "technical file". This file will be retained by Chris Lewis Fire & Security, as the responsible organisation, for at least ten years. The file will include:

- Declaration of conformity
- Manufacturers CE marked stamp or label
- Guide for safe use of gate (operational instructions)
- Installation/maintenance log
- Risk assessment
- Force test results

Maintenance & servicing

As a gate installer it is our responsibility to issue gate owners with a suggested maintenance log to ensure the gates are maintained in a safe condition, represent good value for money and give years of trouble free use.

This log should be kept in a safe place by the property manager/owner. The log will tell you the frequency of maintenance, but as a general rule automated gates should be maintained every six months on commercial premises (including apartment blocks), and at yearly intervals for low usage gateways (private residences of not more than twelve operations a day).

Servicing is a very important and integral part of any automated gate installation. By scheduling routine preventative maintenance the overall running costs can be dramatically reduced. In the event that maintenance is not carried out as laid down by the manufacturer, then the gate owner could well be held responsible for any damage caused by malfunctioning (provided that the event cannot be traced to an original or installation defect).

For information on how we can your gates and barriers into a complete security solution for your property, visit our website, www.chrislewisfs.co.uk.

Chris Lewis Fire & Security designs, installs and maintains a complete range of fire and security systems for residential and commercial customers. The company's experience, dedication to customer satisfaction and innovatively designed solutions are reflected in a host of industry awards, including both Best Security Installer and Best IT Initiative accreditation at the Security Excellence Awards.