



Expert commentary

BS 10800:2020 – Code of Practice for the provision of security services

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Overview

BS 10800:2020 has been implemented to bring the British Standards for the security services sector in line with the International Standards, such as ISO 9001:2015, to enable organizations to easily integrate the codes of Practice into their management systems, if required.

There is commonality across the suite of security services standards, which include door supervision, close protection, cash in transit, security dogs, events security, CCTV management and operation, investigative services, provision of lone workers as well as static site guarding, mobile patrols and keyholding, etc. Therefore, the committee decided to introduce the umbrella standard format, which is the new BS 10800 – Provision of security services containing the generic information from each standard, with individual sector-specific standards containing the specific elements of each sector. The format was well received by the industry during the draft for public comment stage.

BS 10800 is seen as the strategic (umbrella) standard containing context of the organization, top management commitment, risks and opportunities, support, operations and performance evaluation. This ensures that strategy, risk-based thinking and the documented information are in place so that the foundations of the business are strong and maintained.

The sector-specific standards contain the unique information relevant to each sector and are considered to be best practice for organizations. The typical information within the sector-specific standards covers organizational structure, finances, insurance, documented information requirements, resources, premises, control/response room, staff, equipment and uniforms, training, service delivery, site surveys, assignment instructions (AIs), performance evaluation and performance of customer property. Additional information, pertaining to sector-specific sector requirements, is also included.

Each of the relevant security services standards, already in operation, will be updated to the sector-specific format at the due date of revision.

Reasons for change

The main reason for the change and introduction of the new services standards is to update the current format and to remove the duplication from the codes of Practice so that organizations, which operate in more than one sector, adhere to the umbrella standard BS 10800 – Provision of security services, plus the relevant specific information for their sector. Annex A shows the security services standards hierarchy.

For a large number of security service companies who hold management systems standards, this will provide the additional benefit of aiding integration with the International Standards.

The majority of the security services standards will be updated into the new format, with the exception of standards such as the vetting and screening standard which relates to the screening of individual working in a secure environment BS 7858:2019 which remains a stand-alone code of practice and is a normative reference for the front-line security services standards.

Summary

- One umbrella standard detailing the generic information for each of the security services standards
- Sector-specific codes of practice e.g. BS 7499, BS 7984, BS 7960 etc.
- Updated format to allow better integration with the International Standards, such as ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System standard

Main commentary

The introduction to BS 10800 details the way an organization can manage the provision of security services at a strategic level. The code of practice follows the high-level structure of the ISO standards, i.e. ISO 9001:2015. The scope gives recommendations for the management, staffing and operation of an organization providing security services.