

## Burglar Protection

Proper burglar protection can be an effective means of protecting your business from theft. Depending upon the unique requirements of your location and occupancy you will want to consider the cost benefits of the various options in burglar protection. This Hardfact is designed to clarify the various protection levels as outlined by Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC).

The ULC certificate program verifies the required protection is in place, is up to specifications, working properly, under contract to keep working and subject to ULC follow-up service audits.

The two main areas to be concerned with are the extent of protection and communication methods of the signal from the premises.

### Extent of Protection

The extent of protection is broken down into four levels:

**Level 1** This is the lowest level attainable for protection purposes and only includes protection on all accessible openings, whether fixed or moveable, (windows, doors, transom, skylights). Accessible is defined as an opening that is less than 18' above the ground or the roof of an adjoining building, less than 14' from directly or diagonally opposite windows, fire escape or roofs or 3' from openings, fire escapes and stairway in or projecting from the same or adjacent wall and leading to other premises.

**Level 2** Same as Level 1, plus protection on inaccessible (anything over 18') moveable openings.

**Level 3** Same as Level 2, plus protection on party walls, floors and ceilings.

**Level 4** This is the highest level of protection available. It encompasses, the same rules as a Level 3, plus protection on inaccessible fixed windows and skylights and all ceilings walls and floors enclosing premises. The intent of this level of protection is to detect entry through any opening or wall, floor or ceiling.

### Communication Levels

Also included in the overall specifications of the ULC certificate are the various communication levels that exist to transmit a signal to the monitoring station. Line security levels vary between the property being protected and the monitoring station with each level of communication having a relative amount of security from attempts to disable the connection between the premises and the station. The majority of transmissions are transmitted through the telephone network, with some systems transmitting by cellular and radio waves.

There are different communication methods available ranging from a digital dialer to dedicated lines which provide the highest protection from of line tampering.

### Communication Levels are:

**Level 0** – No line security is provided. (i.e., only digital dialers, one-way communicators).

**Level 1** – Line is dedicated and continuously supervised but has numerous customers sharing the line. In other words, a knowledgeable thief could effectively cut a main trunk line and cause an audible and visible indication of the fault at the alarm receiving station. Tracking down this signal could take several hours.

**Level II** – Same as Level I but it must identify which subscriber is affected. ULC specifies identification of a simple compromise is detected within 6 minutes.

**Level III** – Same as Level II but the substitution of phony data and jamming signals are detected.

**Levels IV to VII** – These higher levels do exist but primarily for the protection of financial institutions or areas with high value concentrations.

Local sirens do not fall into any of the categories listed above.

The monitoring station levels include the following classifications.

**Central/Monitoring Station:**

In the past, Central Stations provided their own in house guard service to verify alarm signals. Today, a very small number of companies with this type of service exist as the industry has migrated towards the use of third party private guards due to problems with alarm verification and resulting suspensions from various police services.

Central Stations still provide monitoring services, as well as an annual inspection and maintenance but the guard service is contracted out. In effect, they have become a Monitoring Station. Due to the use of the private guard service, a component was needed to enhance response times and in some cases replace them to verify that an actual break and enter has occurred before the police can be dispatched. ULC has recognized this change in the industry and is allowing "guard companies" that obtain a ULC listing toward ULC Burglar Alarm Guard Service Certificates in conjunction with premises that currently have a ULC certified alarm installation. The new standard outlined by ULC is CAN/ULC-S301-M88 (Standard for Central and Monitoring Station Burglar Alarm Systems).

**Shared Service Monitoring:**

These companies provide monitoring only to various independent alarm company installers. They are not involved with the maintenance or the installation aspect of the alarm installer service. As required, a contracted guard service can also be provided or as needed.

**Summary**

A ULC certificate on an alarm system means the installation meets the security level specified, equipment meets ULC requirements and the claims made by the company have the benefit of third party verifications by an ongoing ULC audit.

**Reference**

CAN/ULC-S301-M88 (Standard for Central and Monitoring Station Burglar Alarm Systems).