Guide to Physical Security Standards for Computers

This leaflet is an aid to help you determine whether a product has the appropriate level of security for its application and risk factor. It is a clear comparison between established security standards appropriate for the physical protection of computers against burglary. For more details please refer to the actual standards or see the websites listed below. To ensure that a product conforms to these standards, it is important that products be certified by a UKAS accredited certification body rather than simply type tested. Certification ensures that the manufacturer continues to produce products to this high standard, particularly relevant for higher risk situations.

The selection of appropriate physical protection of computers and other equipment will depend on a number of issues including the following:

The location of the computer.

The location of the property.

The value and/or desirability of goods or information.

The use of additional security products and technology including CCTV, intruder detection equipment.

The standards of product performance specified in this chart should therefore be considered to be a MINIMUM for the levels of risk described.

RISK	Minimum Performance Required	MINIMUM PROTECTION REQUIRED
Medium Risk Protection of medium risk and medium value equipment such as main file server computers against determined criminals, or where loss/damage of equipment may have a serious effect on business continuity. *Examples: Totally enclosed, bolt down security enclosures.*	**LPS1214 Cat. II**	Test to prevent access to personal computers (PCs), file servers and other similar equipment and unauthorised removal of internal components by burglar with extensive tool kit (not including power tools). Maximum test duration: 15 mins, working time: 3 mins.
Low Risk Protection of low risk servers, personal computers (PCs) or similar equipment against determined criminals, or where loss of equipment may have a detrimental effect on business continuity. *Examples: Open access bolt down security enclosure.*	**LPS1214 Cat. I**	Test to prevent unauthorised removal of personal computers (PCs), file servers and other similar equipment by burglar with extensive tool kit (not including power tools). Maximum test duration: 15 mins, working time:3 mins.
Minimum Risk For premises where risk of break-in is low. Incorporation of a means of identifying stolen property. This gives high deterrent value for easily moveable items. Provides greater level of security for domestic use, and minimum level for businesses where risks are low. LPS 1224/5 is the standard for asset marking and management at all risk levels. *Example: Labels or stencils that, together with relevant bonding agent or chemicals, produce a permanent visual marking. This gives a unique reference number that identifies the asset and the database freephone number.*	**LPS1225** **LPS1224**	Test for the permanency of visible marking to act as a theft deterrent enabling marked assets to be traced to their legal owner. Requirements for secure databases that record ownership of property.

1) Certain business systems will require protection beyond the devices detailed on this sheet and may need secured rooms for which refer to the 'Guide to Security Standards for Doors and Windows' in this series.

2) This document assumes that the points of entry into the room(s) containing the computers, ie the windows and doors, also meet appropriate security levels. For further information please refer to the doors and windows guide (see note 1).

3) Low and medium risk equipment should be protected by an appropriate alarm system in addition to the correct security enclosures.

4) For business continuity purposes, security measures should include making regular back-ups of files and storing these either in fire cabinets approved to BS EN 1047-1:1996 or a remote secure location.

5) Products certified to LPS 1214 on the basis of approved installation and maintenance instructions supplied with the products. Certification is subsequently maintained via regular audits of the manufacturer's quality system and random checks on products against the approved design and build specification. The certification body receives full engineering drawings and installation instructions to determine any potential weakness prior to the testing and the test is carried out by well practiced professionals. The difference between the ratings is the level of access which is gained during the test time.

The performance standards specified relate to the level of physical security offered by computer security entrapments and other related products. They do not necessarily cover other aspects of performance which may be desirable. These include fire resistance, ventilation and durability. These should be considered according to the intended use.

This document offers good general guidance, but purchasers of equipment should, in addition, ensure that they liaise closely with their insurer who may stipulate additional or different requirements dependent on particular circumstances.

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