Get in front of the ‘Q’
SBD and Approved Document Q
Secured by Design (SBD) is a national police crime prevention initiative that aims to reduce burglary and other crime using the principles of good design and appropriate physical security.

Since its origins in 1989, SBD has worked with the design, construction and security sectors to develop security standards for products within the built environment, with the aim of incorporating security features that are ‘designed in’ and ‘invisible’.

Developments and buildings that are given a Secured by Design Award, are inspected by specially trained police staff and consistently achieve large reductions in burglary (up to 75%), criminal damage, auto-crime and antisocial behaviour year-on-year.

From October 2015, the security of new homes will be included, for the first time, in Building Regulations in England. The document is Approved Document Q: Security – Dwellings (ADQ).

This leaflet provides guidance on how SBD Approval, and the standards that we support on behalf of the Police Service, can be used to discharge the requirements of the Building Regulation and ADQ. It is intended for planners, local authority building control officers, architects, developers and any other persons requiring guidance on this matter.
Approved Document Q applies to all new dwellings, including those resulting from a change in use of an existing building, such as commercial premises, warehouse and barns undergoing conversions into dwellings. It also applies within Conservation Areas.

ADQ creates security requirements in relation to:

**Doors, including those that are easily accessible or provide access in any of the following circumstances:**

- Doors at the entrance to a dwelling, including all doors to flats and apartments
- Communal entrance doors to multi-occupancy developments
- Garage Doors where there is a connecting door giving access directly into the dwelling. It should be noted that in this instance the security requirement can be applied at either the connecting residential door or on the vehicle garage door, together with any pedestrian doorsets providing access to the garage. When applied to the vehicular garage door there is a lesser requirement for the inter-connecting door into the dwelling.
- Where bespoke timber doors are proposed, there is a technical specification in Appendix B of the document that must be met.

**Windows:**

in respect of ground floor, basement and other easily accessible locations

**Rooflights:**

in respect of any easily accessible rooflight

The requirement is that the product must be shown to have been manufactured to a design that has been tested to an acceptable security standard (PAS 24:2012 or later versions or a similar standard). The evidence to demonstrate compliance could be in various forms, including from the suppliers of the systems and components used to manufacture the product. It might also be a test report conducted on behalf of the actual product manufacturer or evidence of independent third-party certification. [Appendix A of Approved Document Q suggests that UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service) accredited test facilities should “have the necessary expertise to conduct the relevant tests”.]
For many years Secured by Design has required that doors and windows are not only tested by the product manufacturer, but that independent third-party certification from a UKAS accredited independent third-party certification authority is in place. This requirement exceeds the requirements of Approved Document Q.

Independent third-party certification involves both initial and then ongoing testing of the product, together with audits of both the production facility and the product. This provides assurance that the ongoing quality and consistency of the product, when compared to a product that has been subjected to a ‘one-off’ test, will deliver tangible security benefits to the development and the home occupier. It is important to note that products that have not achieved third-party certification may not take account of any changes to the product components, the security standard or the manufacturing process and, in some cases, have been proven to fail in situ.

Secured by Design attributes the use of certified products to the consistently high reductions in crime that have been achieved, as verified by numerous independent academic research studies.

Any product that is accredited by Secured by Design (see www.securedbydesign.com), or where the manufacturer has independent third-party certification in their name, will meet or exceed the requirements of Approved Document Q. Products that have been tested to PAS 24 or equivalent are not required to display any marking to this effect and the process of ensuring compliance will entail requesting test results from either the test house or systems company to verify that they are compliant. In contrast, those products that have been checked and licensed by SBD or have been certified to the relevant standard by an independent third-party certification authority are required to display permanent marking to that effect, making visual confirmation much simpler. To ascertain whether a product has been accredited by Secured by Design, a quick visit to the website will provide information on the standards that product has been certificated to.
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The Secured by Design Award has now been expanded to include Gold, Silver and Bronze levels. In order to achieve the Gold Award, the property has to achieve the requirements of Approved Document Q and also show that the development layout and some ancillary security requirements, such as lighting and cycle storage, have been met.

The Silver Award fully discharges the requirements of Approved Document Q and, in addition, requires certification from independent third-party certification bodies.

Secured by Design Bronze is primarily for the refurbishment market but, where issued in respect of a new home with ‘bespoke’ products, it can also satisfy the requirements of Approved Document Q.

It is primarily the responsibility of the local authority Building Control department or others, such as the National House Building Council, to confirm that new homes meet the requirements of Approved Document Q. Where alternative evidence, such as one-off reports or data provided by systems or component suppliers, is provided as evidence of compliance with the Regulation, the Building Control Officer will have to confirm (by visual inspection) that all of the components detailed in the evidence match that of the product supplied and installed on site. These can be numerous, especially in regards to doors. Any such changes can adversely affect how the product withstands an attack.

There are notes included within Approved Document Q that highlight the potential for problems when such evidence is supplied. If products do not match the security data supplied then delays may occur in Building Regulations approval.

As the Secured by Design Award has been shown to exceed the requirements of ADQ, and the developer will already have put together all the documentation required for approval, this makes the task of the building control officer much simpler.
Secured by Design has introduced a scheme called SBD National Building Approval (SBD NBA). This award is granted to developers who regularly build homes (and other buildings) to a similar design and specification in different locations. SBD ensures that the full requirements of ADQ are met (and exceeded) and issues a certificate confirming this. The certificate confirms that the doors, windows and rooflights specified for use within the development are of the required standard. SBD NBA is at the same level as a Silver SBD Award and developers can extend this to Gold if the development also meets the standards for that award.

For building control officers, SBD NBA makes the task of ensuring that ADQ has been achieved much simpler as they have the assurance that all products specified within the development are certificated to a standard exceeding that required by ADQ.

For further information on SBD NBA please contact any member of the SBD team or send an email to sbdnba@acpo-sbd.co.uk
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### The standards referenced within ADQ

#### British Standards

**BS EN 356**

**BS 3621**
Thief resistant lock assembly. Key egress [2007+A2:2012]

**BS 8621**

**BS 10621**
Thief resistant dual-mode lock assembly [2007+A2:2012]

#### Publicly available specifications

**PAS 24**
Enhanced security performance requirements for doorsets and windows in the UK. External doorsets and windows intended to offer a level of security suitable for dwellings and other buildings exposed to comparable risk [2012]

**PAS 3621**

**PAS 8621**

**PAS 10621**
Multipoint locking assemblies. Dual mode egress. Performance requirements and test methods [2011]

#### Loss Prevention Certification Board

**LPS 2081: Issue 1**
Requirements and testing procedures for the LPCB approval and listing of building components, strongpoints, security enclosures and free-standing barriers offering resistance to intruders attempting to use stealth to gain entry [2015]

**LPS 1175: Issue 7**
Requirements and testing procedures for the LPCB approval and listing of intruder resistant building components, strongpoints, security enclosures and free-standing barriers [2010]

#### Certisecure: Warrington Certification Limited

**STS 201: Issue 5**
Enhanced security requirements for doorsets to satisfy the requirements of PAS 24 [2013]

**STS 202: Issue 3**
Requirements for burglary resistance of construction products, including hinged, pivoted, folding or sliding doorsets, windows, curtain walling, security grilles, garage doors and shutters [2011]

**STS 204: Issue 3**
Enhanced security performance for windows to satisfy the requirements of PAS 24 [2012]

#### Door and Hardware Federation

**TS 008**
Enhanced security and general requirements for letter plate assemblies and slide through boxes [2012]