good manufacturers constantly engage in development programmes, and their component suppliers (or even the component supplier's material suppliers down the chain) could make specification changes over time. Changes are also frequently made on the basis of feedback from the installation process. Ideas for improvement often only occur at the installation stage, instigated by the need to take account of specific local site conditions. All these changes may well have been made individually in the interests of improvement, however without a proper certification scheme to capture all changes and evaluate their effect, even fairly minor changes could radically alter the product's performance and invalidate any testing or impact rating.

THE SOLUTION

The solution to all these issues is to have a widely accepted certification scheme, both for products, and the companies that design, manufacture, install and service them, run by an independent, credible, certification organisation, and using a set of appropriate standards that have been agreed across the whole industry. Until recently there was no machinery to achieve this, and this became one of the fundamental reasons for the formation of the Perimeter Security Suppliers Association (PSSA).

The PSSA was set up as a company limited by guarantee, funded and organised by 13 founder members who brought in professional association administration, and started the work to gain agreement on a certification scheme and new standards. The PSSA have the backing of government departments, test houses, manufacturers and installers, as well as designers and architects already. New members are also now adding real momentum.

A partnering arrangement with LPCB (BRE), one of the leading independent UKAS accredited certifying bodies, has already produced a draft certification scheme and in conjunction with some of the industry's leading advisors work has begun on the applicable standards to be adopted. It has been agreed that these will be incorporated into an LPCB 'LPS' (Loss Protection Standard), with companies and products successfully certified against this standard being listed by LPCB in their famous and widely accepted 'Red Book'. The certification scheme will be open to all worldwide, with PSSA membership aiming to drastically ease the process by providing technical guidance, help with certification preparation, and training; all focused keenly on member needs.

While the focus is currently on HVM products and an appropriate Certification Scheme, this will undoubtedly widen to cover all highest security perimeter products. The area of high security fencing is already being considered for inclusion into the same certification process.

The consequences of poor standards are magnified in proportion to the level of threat and the required security rating of product. The PSSA's strength is the ability to bring all industry players together, gain consensus on direction with the widest agreement, and hence really start to address these overall standards. The PSSA will also provide a conduit into the standards development process, give a voice to the industry, and be able to link the interests of all involved to the benefit of the UK's high security perimeter sector.

The current issues outlined here, are not untypical for any developing industry sector, and do not by any means mean that current high security perimeter equipment is ineffective. However, with the encouragement and assistance so far added to the PSSA's efforts from all quarters, there is no reason all the issues should not be surmounted before too long and we would urge support for these endeavours.

In the meantime of course, with the commitment PSSA membership has made to improving the whole industry standards, if you have a requirement for the highest security perimeter equipment and have any concerns about standards, you won't do better than to contact a PSSA member.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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SECUREGUARD – ADVANCED PERIMETER PROTECTION SOLUTIONS FOR THE SECURITY INDUSTRY

SECUREGUARD IS A HIGH containment steel barrier designed and developed to meet PAS 68 criteria (7,500kg vehicle, 90 degree impact angle, 20, 30 and 50 mph) for perimeter security. SecureGuard systems offer protection against vehicle and pedestrian intrusion into high security areas.

In the 1990s, manufacturer and supplier of specialist road safety products, Highway Care designed and developed BarrierGuard, a steel safety barrier (vehicle restraint system). BarrierGuard proved to offer significant benefits compared with Temporary Vertical Concrete Barrier that was predominantly used on highways to protect road workers. BarrierGuard's potential was recognised early on as a product that had sufficient capacity to offer very high containment and flexibility of installation in areas where vehicular and/or pedestrian intrusion would present a considerable risk to national and private critical infrastructure. Testing was carried out to PAS 68 criteria. Anchored only at either end of the run, BarrierGuard successfully redirected a 7,500kg impacting vehicle at 30mph from a 45 degree angle of approach;

the vehicle did not penetrate the barrier at all.

BarrierGuard was redesigned in order to meet higher containment levels. The refined design, known as SecureGuard, enhances the protection level offered by the system. SecureGuard was tested to 30 mph with a 7,500 kg vehicle (impact angle of 90 degrees) with the barrier successfully preventing vehicle penetration. SecureGuard was further subjected to an impact with a 7,500kg vehicle, 90 degrees at 50 mph, meeting the criteria of this test. There was no vehicle penetration and SecureGuard did not deflect from its original position. SecureGuard offers performance characteristics that allow it to withstand localised multiple impacts.

The universal SecureGuard systems meet the requirements of PAS 68 from 20 mph through to 50 mph, while providing crash friendly performance to errant road users travelling on perimeter roads. Should the security system need to be placed next to a highway, SecureGuard offers significant protection to infrastructure whilst not endangering the motoring public. SecureGuard stops vehicles attempting to penetrate high security areas while safely redirecting errant vehicles during nuisance impacts.

SecureGuard offers ease of installation with shallow foundations for permanent installations and includes options for temporary installations. SecureGuard has been installed on a number of UK sites, where complex layouts and precise time scales have been accommodated. Providing flexibility and customer confidence for a high performance product, SecureGuard is a first choice for perimeter security in this high profile industry.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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