



# Securing Future Standards

A Guide to Ensuring Your Letterplates  
Meet PAS 24:2016





# Introduction

For several years, easily accessible doorsets (those on entrances to buildings or individual apartments) have been built around the PAS 24:2012 standard, which was needed if projects using them wanted to be recognised by the Secured by Design (SBD) scheme.

As of 1st October 2018 however, PAS 24:2016 (the updated version of the PAS 24:2012 standard) became a requirement within all new or refurbished developments that need to achieve SBD, and for products (such as doorsets) specified for SBD.

There are many parts to this, but one of the most significant – and one that the housing industry needs to pay close attention to – are the standards surrounding the letterplate. As well as being affordable, reliable and visually appealing, these small but vital components must now be TS008:2015 accredited.

The only exceptions to this are for projects that had already been submitted for SBD sometime before midnight on September 30th 2018 and are considered to be sitting in the pipeline before the new standards were applied.

**If any project commenced after the date of September 30th 2018 fails to use TS008 letterplates on its doorsets, it will fail any attempt to achieve SBD accreditation.**

This will potentially impact both industry and public perception of how secure the finished project may be.





# New Standards

For several years, easily accessible doorsets (those on entrances to buildings or individual apartments) have been built around the PAS 24:2012 standard, which was needed if projects using them wanted to be recognised by the Secured by Design (SBD) scheme. However, on October 1st 2018 it was completely replaced by the new, updated version – PAS 24:2016.



## What Does TS008 Accreditation Mean?

The TS008 technical specification was developed by the Door & Hardware Federation (DHF) and covers 'enhanced security and general requirements for letter plate assemblies and slide through boxes'. Its main purpose is evaluating how the letterplate performs against opportunist attacks from burglars and other criminals, though it also assesses its resistance to corrosion, water and fire.

The two types of attack tested on the letterplate are:

- **Manipulation:** The letterplate needs to prevent attackers from being able to reach through the door and access any locks or mechanisms mounted to the inside.
- **Fishing:** The letterplate needs to prevent attackers from reaching and retrieving a small object set up on a table 90cm away from the door. This is designed to replicate thieves attempting to use a rod to 'fish' car keys from hooks and tables inside a building.

TS008:2015 certified letterplates are specifically referenced within the Building Regulation's Approved Document Q as being shown to protect against various attack methods, including letterplate 'fishing'.

Yale already offers the most rigorously tested TS008 product on the market, and is a trusted brand able to produce fully compliant doorset components.





# The Importance of SBD

The Secured by Design (SBD) scheme was launched in 1989. It started out as a group of national police projects focusing on minimum security specifications for the design and security of new and refurbished homes, as well as commercial premises and car parks, and over the last 30 years has grown to encompass more and more of the standards needed to keep a building secure.

If a project is recognised by SBD, it has shown that it meets all these standards. As such, it has become an important part of quality assurance for housebuilders, social housing landlords and OEMs, and is referenced in UK building regulations.

In fact, all new social housing in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales is required to meet SBD and 40% of all new homes nationally meet SBD standards.



SBD is vitally important for all housebuilders, social housing landlords and OEMs aiming to show that they're dedicated to security, as the SBD marque isn't just recognised within the building industry but is becoming increasingly important to the general public.

## How effective is SBD?

It's worth noting that SBD isn't designed to turn every building into a fortress, but rather prevent the opportunistic attacks that make up the majority of burglaries. SBD provides security without compromising the aesthetic qualities of homes.

Studies have shown that **SBD recognised developments are up to 87% less likely to be burgled** and show a reduction of 25% in criminal damage<sup>1</sup>. The SBD scheme

also claims that **the cost of meeting its standards in the average home** have vastly reduced following the introduction of Part Q (costs range from as little as £5 for a flat to circa £150 for a five-bedroomed house), while the Association of British Insurers estimates that introducing SBD across the UK would save the economy more than £3.2 billion over the course of 20 years<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup><https://www.securedbydesign.com/about-us/who-we-are-what-we-do>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.securedbydesign.com/guidance/research-case-studies-guidance/securing-the-nation-the-case-for-safer-homes-2006/viewdocument>



# The PAS24:2016 requirement

Adapting to new standards can sometimes be difficult and costly for developers and the wider industry alike. However, there's no reason why the latest requirement to meet SBD should impose a heavy burden on any company that properly prepares for it.

In fact, the British Standards Institute (BSI) notes that "the amended PAS 24 contains a number of improvements on the original text<sup>3</sup>." These include simplified test standards that make the assessment more user-friendly, which actually works in favour of industry, as well as the new guidelines for letterplates.

The advancing requirements also ensure that schemes like SBD remain trustworthy and respected, which benefits all housebuilders that strive to meet the level of quality they demand. Ultimately, clarity and uniformity across best practice will inevitably save costs for customers in the long-term.

However, in order to keep up with the latest requirements, developers must make sure that they use products that not only meet the latest standard but are also affordable and reliable.

## Meeting PAS 24:2016 with the Yale Postmaster Professional

The Yale Postmaster Professional is proof that increased standards do not always mean increased costs. It is designed to meet every requirement in PAS24:2016 and will fit on any PAS 24 accredited door.

It is also the most rigorously tested TS008 product on the market and comes from a brand that is trusted to produce fully compliant doorset components.

The external flap is manufactured from Austenitic 304 stainless steel, providing excellent corrosion resistance as standard, while the bolt fixings are secured into metal bushes for additional strength. The inner protective housing has a unique concealed hinge mechanism which prevents them from being targeted or removed, as well as a positive stop feature that offers maximum protection against 'fishing' attacks.



Using the Yale Postmaster Professional in projects ensures that the letterplates will meet PAS 24 standards for years to come, allowing builders and OEMs to receive SBD approval.

**For more information on the Yale Postmaster Professional, visit**  
<https://bit.ly/2NY0Yij>

<sup>3</sup><https://memberportal.bsigroup.com/public/2016/june/live/Revised-PAS-24-making-doors-and-windows-safer/>