

Foreword

The Allgood Secure CCTV range is ideal for security and surveillance. Both colour and monochrome systems are available which operate in light levels as low as 1.5 lux (colour) and 0.3 lux (monochrome). Lux is the standard European measurement for light – 100,000 lux represents a bright sunny day, 5 to 50 lux represents normal street lighting.

The core of a CCTV system consists of two elements: a camera – with the appropriate lens and mounting bracket – and a monitor – which translates the camera's signal into an on-screen image.

The benefits of CCTV are as follows:

- Deters theft, violence and vandalism.
- Helps to identify offenders when linked to Access Control and Intruder Alarm systems.
- Provides evidence in prosecutions by police.
- Helps to create a safer environment.
- Allows more efficient use of security staff.

Larger and more sophisticated systems are created by adding extra items from the range of accessories outlined at the end of this section. With a switcher unit for example, several cameras can be connected to one monitor.

As this subject area could easily fill a whole catalogue, we have only shown a selection of the most commonly used products; as ever, we invite you to consult Allgood Secure for further help with meeting your exact requirements.

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There are two main types of camera:

Overt – easily seen and, apart from their function as a camera, also provide a visual deterrent

Covert – a range of miniature or discrete cameras which are designed to be concealed both for security and aesthetic reasons.

Both types are available in either colour or monochrome formats. Monochrome offers a higher resolution image. Colour cameras may be more useful in certain applications.

Camera lenses are available for internal and external use and require exact calibration to ensure specific site requirements are achieved. Different lenses offer a choice of wide angle or close up viewing.

Camera mountings range from simple wall or pole mounted to telemetry controlled Pan Tilt and Zoom (PTZ) units. With PTZ, large areas can be viewed with only one camera – a telemetry unit provides complete 'joystick' control in the lateral and vertical planes and distance or close range viewing, all from any distance from the camera location by using LAN or dial-up multi-site technology.

A complete range of monochrome and colour monitors is available. As with televisions their size is measured diagonally.

The size of monitor is determined by considering how many cameras are to be displayed on one screen and the observer's viewing distance from the monitor.

The four most common screen sizes are: 230mm (recommended viewing distance 330–510mm), 300mm (530–910mm), 380mm (910–1270mm), 530mm (1270–1930mm).

Bespoke monitor consoles can be manufactured when multiple monitors are required, for example in reception areas or security offices, according to your requirements.

Single images are normally shown on screen. Multiple images can be displayed by using the accessories detailed herewith.

Switcher – Allows manual selection of two or more cameras, with only one camera's image being viewed at a time.

Splitter – Allows images from several cameras to be viewed simultaneously on one monitor. It is also possible to set the splitter to scroll through the images one at a time using the full monitor screen, or to view one camera only.

Multiplexer – A multiplexer allows a number of cameras to be displayed one after the other or recorded, viewed and played back simultaneously.

Digital recorders – These systems are based on a large capacity hard disk drive on which the footage is digitally stored, allowing it to be transferred onto some backup system, usually a DVD. The advantage of using DVD technology is that no degradation of quality occurs when viewing or copying.

Video recorders – Specially designed time lapse VCR units will record as described above. They are more robust for the commercial/industrial environment they are expected to work within.

Time lapse – The amount of video footage recorded is adjustable, whereby images are only recorded every few seconds, thus saving enough visual data without having to look through hours of footage on playback. The time lapse can be set from real time up to 960 hours per three hour tape. Bear in mind that the longer the time lapse the greater the danger of missing an event becomes.

Camera housing – These are available from discrete, covert internal units to external units suitable for all weather conditions that can be combined with heating elements and wash/wipe facilities.

CCTV systems are generally tailored to individual site requirements. Please contact Allgood Secure for assistance with specification.