

<b>BBTB Date:</b>	<b>08 June 2022</b>
<b>BBTB Number:</b>	<b>BBTB-082</b>
<b>BBTB Title:</b>	<b>Weekly Test Message BS5839-8 Requirements</b>
<b>System Description:</b>	<b>VIGIL VA Systems</b>
<b>Product(s) Affected:</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Reference:</b>	<b>ECR4738</b>
<b>Priority:</b>	<b>3</b>

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- 1 - Essential:** Action is Recommended
  - 2 - Important:** Product Form / Fit / Function has been changed (may affect compatibility)
  - 3 - General:** For information / reference
  - 4 - Obsolescence:** Notification of Component or Product Obsolescence
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## DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBLEM

Baldwin Boxall would like to remind our customers and the end users of our systems of their obligations to perform a correct “Weekly Test” of the PA/VA and Fire system installed in their premises and what this test should entail.

## SUGGESTED ACTION

BS5839-8:2013 states the following process should be performed:

*Figure 1 — BS5839-8:2013 Clause 40.1a*

**40.1** On a weekly basis, the nominated member of the premises management should ensure that:

- a) the system is tested by operating a manual call point on the fire detection and fire alarm system and the correct emergency message is broadcast in the correct emergency loudspeaker zone according to the cause and effect plan;

*NOTE 1 It is not sufficient to test emergency messages from controls at the VACIE alone.*

*NOTE 2 The test ought to be preceded by a pre-test announcement and followed by a “test complete” announcement.*

Please see NOTE 1 above which states that it is not sufficient to trigger emergency messages from the PA/VA system (VACIE) and that they must be triggered via the Fire system (i.e. from a different call point each week). This is to ensure that the interface between the PA/VA and Fire system is operating as it should.

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Selecting a message manually from a Voice Alarm control microphone (VACIE) does not test this interface and so does not confirm that if the Fire System is triggered the Voice Alarm System will evacuate the building in accordance with the evacuation strategy.

NOTE 2 above states that a “pre-test” message and “test complete” should be broadcast, it is acceptable for these to be selected from a Voice Alarm Control Microphone.

The correct sequence should be:

- Select & broadcast the “Pre-Test” Message from Voice Alarm Control Microphone
- Trigger a manual call point on the Fire System (this should be a different location each week)
- Ensure the correct message is broadcast in the correct area and is intelligible
- Reset the Fire System
- Select & broadcast the “Test Complete” message from Voice Alarm Control Microphone

Note the above sequence is not necessarily complete as additional site specific Isolations or notifications may be required prior to the test for other Fire Systems (e.g. Smoke Extraction, Access Control, Emergency Services notification etc.).

There may be other site specific limitations that determine when this functional test of the fire interface can be performed, and as this not a “silent” test it is likely this will be performed out of hours.

Please see BS5839-8:2013 for more detail.

## **Customer Services Contact Details**

For further assistance with any aspect of this Technical Bulletin please contact:

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