EasyGates Direct

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2016

A Day in the Life of...

Gary Gates

Gate Installer

A DHF Code of Practice installer

Monday – Risk Assessment of an Existing Gate

*Having recently been contacted by a property management company with several multi-user gated sites; I have today been dispatched to provide a risk assessment for an existing swing gate installation in our local area. As a member of the DHF Powered Gate Group, we have recently received training and have been provided with templates to carry out a 7 step risk assessment.**

Upon arrival at the site, it was determined that there was a single set of dual leaf metal swing gates installed approximately 7 years ago by an unknown party. No paperwork was present on-site, and the property management company could not produce any historical records of handover or maintenance for the gate system. A quick look around the gate did not reveal any manufacturer's label or CE marking, and no manual release key or mains power isolation switch was present.

** As recommended in the recently launched TS011:2016 Code of Practice for the Design, Manufacture, Installation and Maintenance of Powered Gates and Traffic Barriers (templates can be downloaded from the DHF website)*

Step 1 – Determining the limits of the gate:-

The system has 2 metal gate leaves weighing approx. 120Kg each. Each leaf is 1500mm wide by 1750mm high, with approx. 30% infilled design. The gates are located in a partially sheltered paved driveway, with level ground clearance of 75mm consistent under each leaf. The driveway leads to 3 dwellings, and the gate is estimated by the management company to be operated up to 20 times per day by trained users, who have radio remote controls and mobile phones to operate the gates. These gates are situated on a busy main road, so exposure to un-trained users (including visits from family members and utility services and maintenance contractors) are almost a daily occurrence.

Step 2 – Identifying and listing of all potential hazards:-

A list of all potential hazards was then created, which included but was not limited to: structural integrity, electrical safety, control system reliability, principal of safety integration, and foreseeable misuse. In general, the gate was deemed to be structurally adequate using the appropriate construction and equipment as suggested in the DHF Code of Practice, however there were some potential hazards. These included impact, crushing and shearing risks present at the gate leaf closing and opening cycles; and reducing hinge gap areas located on both sides of the gate. No current state of the art control measures were fitted to the gate to address these hazards.

Step 3 - Resolve as many hazards as possible by safe design:-

Assessment of the design of the gate revealed that unless removed and completely re-manufactured, safe design measures could not be implemented to eliminate all physical hazards present. In addition, assessment of the control system and manual release mechanism revealed possible re-design benefits, these included installation of a new gate mounting bracket and the issue of manual release keys to the local dwellings.

Step 4 - Apply state of the art controls to the remaining hazards:-

State of the art control measures were recommended to address the hazards listed in step 2, a few of these included safety edge devices fitted to the gate leaves and hinge areas reducing gaps to eliminate them. Electrical recommendations included addition of an appropriate isolation device and re-wiring of low voltage cables within the control system.

Step 5 - List any minor residual risks:-

Residual risks were noted, including visibility of zone lighting and warning signs. The suggestion was made to implement sounder or flashing lights to alert untrained users to the possibility of the gate moving without warning.

Step 6 - Issue user warnings and safe use instructions:-

The risk assessment was completed and sent to the customer, along with a quote and proposal for recommended works to be carried out. Upon successful completion of these works, the customer was issued with a safe use instruction manual produced by our company, detailing operation of swing gates and what to look out for.

Step 7 - Issue maintenance instructions:-

Following the quote for upgrade work to the gate, a planned 6 monthly maintenance contract was offered to the customer. This contract detailed works to be carried out at minimum 6 monthly intervals, and included (but was not limited to) physical tests and inspection of safety devices.

A list of limited user maintenance tasks was also submitted to the management company, designed to keep the gate in full working order. These tasks would need to be carried out by a trained user, following the explicit instructions included.

The BREXIT Elephant in the Room

Managing Director Tony Daniels-Gooding talks about the effects of Brexit to the business.

"Although suppliers hate to talk to customers about such things, there is no shying away from the fact that Brexit has led to a decline in sterling against the euro and dollar."

"Most products in the industry are imported, so prices will inevitably increase."

"We are working hard to contain and limit the changes, and aim to keep our prices as keen as we can."

*"We will give as much notice as possible to changes on major product lines, but we recommend using the online trade store (**www.easygatesdirect.co.uk**) for the most up to date pricing."*

Tony Daniels-Gooding
Managing Director

Product Spotlight

Our product spotlight for this edition is the New Intratone keypad kit. The 06-0130-EN kit provides the installer with a feature rich, "always on" system that enables quick and simple replacements of up to 80 individual keypad codes via the internet. The compact and versatile system has an inbuilt 10,000 user capacity radio receiver module, along with mobile phone opening capability all bundled with a free 10-year connectivity data plan.

The system can be equipped with a further keypad to enable control of 2 entrances or exits, enabling easy management of access in or out of the system. This intuitive system is managed through a website console, so can be accessed from any internet connected device such as a smartphone or tablet, providing great flexibility for management agents, installers and end users.

Capabilities:-

- *Number of access points managed = 2 relay outputs (timed/latching)*
- *Configurable access time slots*
- *Annual clock for holidays or special access*
- *Permanent rolling code radio system with 2 or 4 button remote controls*
- *Max. number of remote controls/mobile phone numbers = 10,000*
- *Max. number of keypad codes managed = 80*
- *10 years' data included*

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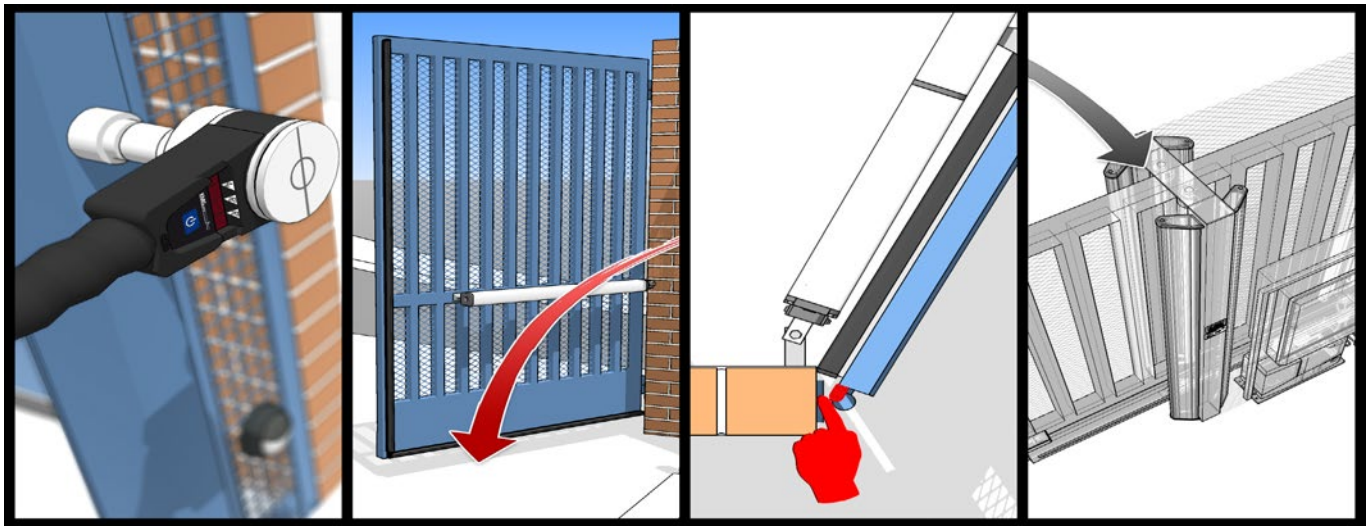
Code of Practice Videos

The DHF (Door & Hardware Federation) trade body that represents the UK gate and door industry released a new Code of Practice this summer - DHF TS 011:2016. Several key elements of this Code of Practice have been designed to demystify complex standards, and make things clearer for installers and maintainers of gates and barriers to understand.

The code is based on best practice, and aims to reduce the risks associated with powered gates to as low as is reasonably practical.

EasyGates Direct produced 4 animated videos to make it easy to understand the Code of Practice document, and to show how to practically implement some of the new testing requirements.



The videos cover the following subjects:

Portal area test piece - *Although sliding gate portal areas have been widely fitted with protective devices in the past, they have still remained free from any verification tests until now. The COP gives detailed information on positioning of safety devices and a design for an approved test piece to ensure this area can be made safe.*

Force testing - *Force testing has always been an area of great confusion for installers, due to its complexity. The COP has simplified and reduced the time it takes to verify a gate as meeting safe forces.*

Swing gate lower rail hazards - *Lower rail crushing and impact hazards is another area where the BE EN standards were not clear. Although some installers interpreted that protection was required against impact hazards, most were confused as how to achieve this. The COP now clearly defines both of these hazards, and allows an installer to clearly identify what is safe and what requires re-design or additional safety devices to create a safe gate.*

Stuart Roddy

National Sales Manager

'We are a main supplier of electric gate and garage door automation and access control. We are also long standing members of the DHF and feel a huge responsibility to comply and support the new code.'

'Our in-house studio have the tools available to produce high quality 3D videos and we were happy to spend the time producing these animations to support and share with installers and maintainers'.

Swing gate hinge areas - *Safe hinge gaps have been a heavily debated topic in the past. With no clear answers to be gleaned from the BS EN product standards, this is quite possibly one of the most dangerous areas of swing gate installations, as the area can be difficult to properly protect and several injuries and 1 death have been attributed to this. The COP has now given a clear definition for the industry to work to, enabling manufacturers to safely design gates and installers to safely identify and eliminate hazards on existing gates.*

These videos are available to view at
www.easygatesdirect.co.uk/store/videos
and on the EasyGates' YouTube channel.

Product Offer

Intratone GSM Remote Kit

Click here for Prices

Includes:-

- *1 GPRS 2 x channel Radio Receiver*
- *50 x Robust Two Channel Remote Controls*
- *10 Years of FREE Data (for remote administration)*

Manage remote controls and 'Dial to Open Access' over the Internet. The simple interface allows for time access zones and remote programming (includes add, delete, and block functions).

This bundle is a limited time offer, that includes the Intratone GSM Radio Remote System and 50 Intratone RF Eco 2-Channel Remote Controls.

Earn Access Points with this item!

AccessPoints

LET'S GET TO THE POINT

Our Access Point reward system means that when you buy products online you receive access points.

These points can be used to buy other stuff from EasyGates Direct... a bit like free money!

Sign up now to take full advantage of our trade prices and start earning access points!

Brand Personality

We have recently undergone a brand personality refresh. After 25 plus years in the industry, we feel our name is well recognised, and so are in a strong position to look at new ways of presenting our offerings. We want to continue to communicate that we are informative and trustworthy, but also want to inject more personality, fun and warmth in our communication. Look out for our new creative on press ads; Facebook and Twitter pages; emails and website banners.

Christmas Closing Times:

From 1PM 23rd December - 2nd January

Orders received over the Christmas period will be dispatched on January 3rd.

Please follow & tweet us on Twitter, or like us on Facebook.

twitter.com/EasyGates

facebook.com/EasyGatesLtd