Division 8 v. 28: Dilemma resolved

For years, those working on Electronic Access Control projects for both new construction and aftermarket have been challenged with trying to determine which components and products should be listed in which specification section. Should an electronic component for the opening go in Division 8 (Door Hardware) or Division 28 (Electronic Safety and Security)?

At times, it’s been a point of contention among the trade technicians working on an electronic physical security project. Confusion about the proper location has resulted in products being specified twice or being overlooked altogether—both of which can be costly mistakes.

To address this long-standing issue, the Security Industry Association (SIA), working with the Construction Specification Institute (CSI), recently approved changes in which, basically, all intelligent devices for an opening are now to be listed in Division 28. This coincides with the release of the new CSI MasterFormat 2016 edition. Numbers and titles can be accessed at no charge through http://www.csinet.org/numbersandtitles. These changes are expected to assist with resolution of the age old 8-versus-28 conundrum, as well as make delineations clearer for all the stakeholders involved in specifying a project. Even more, with categories better defined, it should help all stakeholders improve their estimating—and profitability—as they coordinate with other trades to complete a project.

“Previously, it was not uncommon that the individual quoting and specifying the project for Division 8 was someone other than an integrator,” explains Marcus Batten, Allegion National Security Consultant, XceedID and aptiQ Credentials. “Because of this, the detailed cost factors involved with labor and commissioning the intelligent device were often overlooked.”

He says that a project often ended up costing the client more if detailed coordination and complete system review for integrity wasn’t completed between the supplier (Division 8) and the party responsible to commission the system (Division 28).

“Moving all intelligent products into Division 28 addresses these issues, so all costs are clearly identified and the bid process doesn’t leave anything to question or the potential for critical components to be overlooked,” Says Batten.
The cost-savings benefit of the changes
The 8-versus-28 dilemma and the need for the changes are no surprise to industry veterans.

“The categories for Division 28 haven’t been updated since 2004,” says Ray Coulombe, CSI, CDT, Founder and Managing Director of SecuritySpecifiers and the one who spearheaded the changes along with SIA. “The security industry—and the products available—have changed dramatically since that time. The intelligent devices used on doors today weren’t even in the market then. The changes made to Division 28 better reflect today’s security industry.”

Even more, he says, with MasterFormat better representing security design and operations, it will help all those involved in a specification to be included from the beginning so the right resources and investments are allocated. Ultimately, this will improve management of overhead and revenue.

Snapshot of Division 28 changes
Spearheaded by SIA and Coulombe, a group of about 90 industry stakeholders recommended revisions to the security and life safety-related facets of the hardware specification guidelines. Division 28 now consists of the following classifications:

- Access Control (28 10 00)
- Video Surveillance (28 20 00)
- Security Detection, Alarm and Monitoring (28 30 00)
- Life Safety (28 40 00)
- Specialized Systems (28 50 00)

Additionally, there are new common work results that apply to other categories, including Security Communications; Servers, Storage and Work Stations; Systems Integration; Power Sources and Cybersecurity Requirements.

Below are the changes made to the main classifications:

**Access Control**
Access Control was unbundled from Intrusion to exist as its own category. Plus:

- A section was added for General Requirements for Access Control Systems.
- Under Access Control Software and Database Management, expanded subsections were included for Access Control Software and Access Control Software Interfaces.
- Access Control System Hardware was expanded to provide a more granular breakdown of hardware types, such as network controllers, door controllers and I/O.
- Access Control Hardware Devices was moved over from Division 8 and encompasses those electronic devices that are key components of an access control system, including electrified locking devices and biometrics.
- Other key additions include:
  - Egress Management Devices
  - Telephone Entry Systems
  - Intercom Entry Systems
  - Electronic Key Management Systems
  - Visitor Management

**Video Surveillance**
Video Surveillance is now broken out as its own category. Some changes were obvious such as including, naming and classifying camera types under a subsection called Surveillance Cameras, instead of Remote Devices and Sensors.

- In addition to classifying the major types of surveillance cameras, provision is made for accessories and illuminators. Video analytics is added under Video Management Systems, and recording devices are moved under Storage Appliances in Common Work Results.
Security Detection, Alarm and Monitoring
This area is where a significant consolidation of products occurs, built around intrusion and intrusion response. Intrusion Detection is the first major subcategory, segmented into building intrusion detection, area and perimeter intrusion detection, and intrusion detection interfaces. The second subcategory is Security Monitoring and Control, which preserves Electronic Structural Monitoring Systems and, importantly, adds:

- Security Operations and Monitoring Center
- Security Monitoring and Control Software
- Security Monitoring and Control Services
- Tracking Systems, for assets and personnel
- Audio Monitoring

Life safety
Life safety incorporates the major classifications from the former Electronic Detection and Alarm category, and now encompasses environmental sensors, Fire Detection and Alarm, Electronic Personal Protection and Mass Notification. It adds the new category of Emergency Response Systems, including Computer Aided Dispatch.

Fire Detection and Alarm has been subdivided into Detection and Initiation, Fire Alarm, and Emergency Control Function Interfaces. An important contribution of the working group, led by Ted Milburn of Eaton Corporation, was the move to more closely align categories and terminology with that issued by NFPA, whose guidance is critical to fire system designers.

Specialized Systems
- The first category added, Information Management and Presentation, is a major one in today’s Electronic Security and Life Safety Systems. A number of systems, called by various names, such as Physical Security Information Management (PSIM), Command and Control, and Situational Awareness, are used to aggregate and correlate information from diverse internal and external sources to provide a unified “state of affairs” picture. Often, these prompt operators into action or automatically generate a response, such as keying a mass notification system. The Data and Information Management section of the category is built around an extensive list of system interfaces. The other major sections are Data Presentation and Control Room and Monitoring Equipment.

- The second category, Detention Security Systems, eliminates most of the detention related items in the former category of Electronic Monitoring and Control and focuses on interfaces to connected subsystems. It adds non-surveillance video sections for interrogation, arraignment and visitation.

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