When it comes to managing time and attendance systems no other biometric solution compares to the Schlage® HandPunch®. Time after time our customers report the reliability of the HandPunch because it accurately identifies employees in environments where dirt, dust, and wet conditions may limit the accuracy of other biometrics. The HandPunch has been known to pay for itself in less than 9 months, making it an ideal solution to businesses that are trying to control costs due to employee payroll fraud, manual data review and correction time, and payroll error. While the benefits of implementing Schlage HandReaders are many, employees may raise concerns about the way hand geometry technology could affect their privacy rights. Schlage Biometrics understands their concerns and would like to address the issues regarding biometrics that may come up.

HandReaders work by shining a light on the user’s hand, taking a picture, and looking at the hand silhouette. The illumination is provided by LEDs similar to the remote control on a TV. Think of it as a flashlight casting a shadow of a hand.

**Technology**
Geometric measurements of the hand (lengths, widths, areas, and heights) are calculated from the silhouette and then “compressed” by a mathematical formula into a 9-byte numerical template. Since the compression is so high, it is infeasible to reverse-engineer the 9-byte template into the hand image or even the raw geometric measurements of the person that used the HandReader.

**Privacy**
The HandReader terminal does not collect and store an image of the hand, but instead it converts the image to a 9-byte numerical template which is a mathematical representation of size and shape of the hand. Once this numerical template is developed it is stored in a memory location which is defined by the person’s ID number.

To authenticate a user already verified in the database, the user’s ID is entered and their hand is placed on the platen (surface area where users place their hand). An image of the hand is captured and then converted to a 9-byte numerical template. If the new template matches the stored template, the person’s identity is verified and the transaction is recorded.
No personally-identifiable characteristics such as scars, marks, tattoos, fingerprints or palm prints are captured or detected by the terminal. According to Article 29 from the EU Advisory Body on Data Protection and Privacy: “biometric systems... which do not leave traces (e.g. shape of the hand but not fingerprints)... create less risks for the protection for fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals.”

Religion
Since the HandReader is not capable of personally-identifiable characteristics, HandReaders do not in any way have the ability to place or detect the “Mark of the Beast” or any other mark on a person’s hand. Many religious organizations and churches trust the HandReader every day to accurately and efficiently manage their time and attendance systems.

Safety
The infrared lights used in the HandReader are similar to those used in remote controls for TV’s and VCR’s. Internal testing concluded that the light intensity generated by the infrared lights in the HandReader is significantly less than the light intensity generated by direct sunlight. Using a HandReader for 30 seconds a day is comparable to standing in the sun for 0.2 seconds.

Schlage Biometrics has submitted HandReader information to the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). OSHA did not report any hazards.

The Federal Communications Commission requires that computers meet sub-part J of Part 15 of FCC rules. This section details radiated energy. Schlage Biometrics has tested to these standards and meets the requirements of the European Community and is CE Certified.

Hygiene
Every HandReader contains antimicrobial technology which inhibits the growth of a broad spectrum of bacteria, mold, and fungi, making the platen’s surface cleaner and more hygienic. This silver-based agent is embedded into the materials used to produce the platen during the manufacturing process. Therefore, the antimicrobial surface remains active for the life of the biometric reader.

Schlage Biometrics has been providing HandReaders for more than 20 years. Every day several hundred thousand hand geometry units are used by millions of people in applications like day care centers, athletic clubs, hotels, manufacturing facilities, government installations, education facilities, and long-term care facilities globally. Schlage Biometric HandReaders have a proven track record in the field and are the durable and reliable biometric you can count on.

About Allegion
Allegion (NYSE: ALLE) creates peace of mind by pioneering safety and security. As a $2 billion provider of security solutions for homes and businesses, Allegion employs more than 8,000 people and sells products in more than 120 countries across the world. Allegion comprises more than 25 global brands, including strategic brands CISA®, Interflex®, LCN®, Schlage® and Von Duprin®. For more, visit www.allegion.com.