

What is the importance of a Facility Security Audit?

Performing regular security audits is a best practice that every store owner should follow. Every location is vulnerable to threats, be they physical theft, credit card information theft, life safety risks to employees and customers and/or acts of God.

The best planned security systems and security procedures lose their effectiveness if they are not continuously monitored. Store owners should perform regular security audits, document all findings and deficiencies and ensure corrective action is taken to correct said deficiencies. In addition, all staff members should be trained on any new features added to security system.

Security audits can encompass a wide array of areas; however, a cursory checklist is listed below:

Physical layout of the facility and surrounding area

- Is there a clear view for law enforcement and customers of the store interior from the store exterior?
- Does the landscaping offer locations to hide or means of access to roof tops or other access points?

Lighting

- Is there sufficient lighting to allow law enforcement, employees or others to see places of possible concealment or access?
- Are access points obscured by low light?

Alarms – Including fire, intrusion, tamper and motion

- Are doors, windows and gates monitored for egress and ingress?
- Are means of ingress able to be audited to identify who accessed those areas?
- Is the premises monitored for fire or smoke? Does the system alert the local fire department?
- In the event of a forced entry, who does the alarms system notify?

Physical Barriers –Including fences, bollards and gates

- Are fences tall enough to reduce unauthorized access to the property? Is the fence checked regularly by staff for holes, damage or access points?
- Are bollards in place to prevent damage to buildings or access points by vehicles?
- Are gates secured and operating properly?

Surveillance system

- Are the perimeter of the building and the perimeter of the property adequately covered by cameras?
- Are the building entrances and exits monitored by cameras?

Access to property

- Have past and/or terminated employees still have keys/access cards to the building?
- Have past and/or terminated employees been removed from having access to the property?

Performing a security audit on a regular basis will help your business minimize loss and increase the safety of your employees and customers. With each audit, your store will become increasingly less

vulnerable. A security audit takes minimal time to complete and will have lasting effects on increasing the safety and security of your location.

ARA Chief Security Consultant will be visiting all Member Stores to conduct a thorough facility security audit to assess site vulnerability and provide a comprehensive action plan.