

MLA Minimum Security Guidelines

February 2008

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Re: Guidelines For Minimum Security For Domestic Properties

The Master Locks Association (MLA) publish a document detailing guidelines for minimum security for domestic properties, this is published as theft from domestic property causes major problems for the Insurance industry and for specifiers of security products who may not be familiar with the industries involved. The reasons for these guidelines are:

- *The Insurers requirement on its policy holders to maintain a minimum level of security to protect their premises, and to use it when the premises are unattended or use it in part when they are occupied.*
- *The requirement of the householder to take reasonable security precautions for their own good.*
- *To provide easily understood information for the use of those not familiar with the Security or Insurance industries.*

Regarding hardware, and in particular Multipoint Locks, the guidelines state the following:

•Single Doors:

The multipoint lock system should have a minimum of three locking points with a central bolt (minimum throw 13 mm) and two dead or hook bolts (minimum throw 20 mm). All locked simultaneously by one operation of the key.

•Double Doors:

The multipoint lock system should have a minimum of three locking points with a central bolt (minimum throw 13 mm) and two dead or hook bolts locking into the head and sill of the door frame (minimum throw 14 mm). All locked simultaneously by one operation of the key.

•Cylinders:

(a) Lock cylinders installed before the implementation of these guidelines (November 1999) shall have a minimum of five pins and anti-drill insert. Thereafter, the cylinder shall meet the requirements of Grade 4 of BS EN 1303 1998

(b) Where any cylinder operated lock is used, the outside cylinder shall not protrude more than 4 mm from the face of the door or the lock furniture (handle plate or escutcheon) where fitted. Lock furniture should be of the 'bolt through' type where possible with the fixings being secured from the internal side only. If the protrusion of a cylinder exceeds 4 mm a security escutcheon must be fitted to reduce the exposed cylinder to within 4 mm on the risk side of the door.

Note! Many variations of Paddock's Locks meet the requirements detailed in the MLA guidelines.



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For further details the complete guidelines are available from the MLA website.