

18.2.3 Ambient light levels

The illuminances produced by the security lighting need to at least match or preferably exceed the illuminances of the surrounding area. Unless, this is done, the area covered by the security lighting will look dimly lit.

18.2.4 Crime risk

The frequency and nature of crimes occurring in different locations can vary widely. The level of risk will already be built into the level of defences used on secure sites but this is not possible in public areas. In public areas, increasing risk of crime is associated with increasing illuminances used for security lighting.

18.2.5 CCTV surveillance

CCTV cameras are widely used for remote surveillance of large areas. The amount of light required for effective operation of CCTV cameras can vary dramatically from starlight to high-level security lighting. Manufacturers specify a minimum illuminance needed for their cameras to produce a clear picture. These values usually assume an incandescent lamp. Higher illuminances may be required for other light sources with different spectral power distributions. Further, if moving objects are to be easily seen, illuminances above the minimum will be required, whatever the light source. The manufacturer should be consulted before selecting the light source to be used if there is any doubt about the sensitivity of the camera.

The other aspect of cameras that needs care is their rather limited dynamic range. A high level of illuminance uniformity is necessary if dark areas in the CCTV image are to be avoided. Further, care should be taken to mount CCTV cameras in positions where they do not receive any light directly from the luminaires as such light will sometimes cause a 'white-out' of that part of the image.

18.2.6 Impact on the surrounding area

Security lighting should be limited to the protected area. Stray light from a security lighting installation may be considered to be light trespass by neighbours and a source of sky glow by others (see Section 6.2.9). Further, where signal lights are used to control traffic on roads and railways, care should be taken to avoid confusion caused by either disability glare to the observer, veiling reflections on the signals, or the identification of the security lighting itself as a signal.

18.3 Lighting recommendations

18.3.1 Illuminance and illuminance uniformity

The recommendations for security lighting involve maintained mean illuminance, illuminance uniformity, glare control and light source colour properties. The maintained mean illuminance and illuminance uniformity recommendations are given for secure areas and public areas separately. The recommendations for glare control and light source colour properties are applicable to both. The maintained mean illuminances listed are minima. It may be necessary to increase these illuminances where the ambient light levels and the risks of crime are high.