

3 COMMUNICATIONS

Minimum Standards

- 3.1.00 The minimum requirements for the provision of voice and data communications in Health Care Facilities shall be those listed in Enclosure E1.

All clauses outlined in the following section shall be in addition to statutory requirements.

Telephone

- 3.2.00 Telephone Block cabling shall conform to Austel technical standards and specifications. An expansion capacity of 25 percent is recommended to be allowed. All cableways shall be fully accessible.

Intermediate distribution frames (IDF) and (SDF) are recommended to be located in areas that are secure and fully accessible.

Combined voice-data outlets are recommended to be installed where appropriate.

Nurse Call System

- 3.3.00 Nurse call systems shall be hard wired and designed and installed in accordance with AS 3811 'Hard wired patient alarm systems'. Nurse activated emergency call buttons are recommended to be separate from the patient nurse call button.

Interfacing of Alarms

- 3.4.00 Intelligent alarm interfaces are recommended to be provided on nurse call systems to accept digital and analogue alarm inputs from duress systems, fire information panels, patient egress monitors, security systems and plant alarms such as oxygen failure.

Public Address System

- 3.5.00 A public address system shall be installed in the hospital facility and shall incorporate evacuation warning (tones or messages), area paging, intercommunication facilities, background music and other communications services as considered appropriate. Where installed, such systems should not be unduly intrusive to patients in ward areas. When functioning as a part of the facility's emergency evacuation system it shall continue to operate during periods of major power failure.

An Emergency Warning Intercom System (EWIS) shall be provided where required by the Building Code of Australia. The installation of an EWIS in other cases is recommended.

Paging System

- 3.6.00 A paging system shall be used to supplement the hospital telephone system for contact with key staff members. This facility may include arrangements for assistance call and other emergency signals. Automatic interface with the fire alarm system is recommended. Paging may be of the public address or self contained radio frequency type which produces full alpha/numeric message information.

Paging facilities shall be maintained in the event of a major power failure in accordance with AS 3009 'Electric installations - Emergency power supplies in hospitals'.