SECURITY

Your showcase security specification should be based upon the nature and intrinsic value of exhibits to be displayed and form part of an overall security strategy which may involve bag checks, x-ray machines, alarms, CCTV, guards and other physical building security measures.

A good showcase should have these inherent security characteristics:

- It should look secure, to deter attempted theft or vandalism
- It should be fail-safe, to prevent opportunist theft or vandalism
- It should be resilient, to protect exhibits from accidental damage
- It should be monitored, to alert staff in the event of assault
- It should be robust, to delay entry in a determined attack

Here's how we make sure that ClickNetherfield showcases give your exhibits a secure home:

FRAMEWORK

The case framework is made of aluminium or steel securely fixed together. Our smaller cases can be secured to the floor to prevent removal.

For large cases we use a structural steel frame to provide greater rigidity. All glass and structural panels are securely fixed to the case framework. Higher levels of security can be achieved by securing all edges of glass within a metal edging channel.

STRUCTURAL PANELS & BASEBOARDS

For the highest security we recommend steel panels. See page 12 for options.

DIFFUSERS

The lighting diffuser should not be a weak point. Our diffusers can be made of steel or glass that meets the same specification as the main showcase panels.

LOCKS

We recommend Abloy™ locks. Where possible we recommend a two stage locking system:

- The first stage mechanically secures the door in place and seals the case.
- The second stage prevents access to the mechanical locking system.

This eases operation and avoids pressure on locks that may lead to failure.

For cases where the lock can't be reached, we can supply electric locks. These can be controlled locally or remotely through a cabling infrastructure, and access to the showcase can be actively managed and logged from a central location.

We recommend using separate key suites for maintenance areas such as light-hoods and facility trays so that maintenance staff cannot gain access to display areas.

ALARMS

Sensing devices for display cases can include magnetic contacts fitted to opening panels, passive infrared motion detectors, break glass detectors, vibration detectors and movement sensors. These sensors can be part of a self-contained battery operated unit, or linked back to a central security point through a cable infrastructure or through wireless transmissions.

- Stand-alone systems, although less sophisticated, provide a flexible solution with an audible alarm signal at a low cost.
- Hard wired systems can accommodate a wide variety of sensors linked back to a central point, however they are costly to install, and the wiring can limit the flexibility of your gallery space.
- Wireless systems have appropriate sensors for most showcase applications and transmit back to receivers mounted within the gallery. These receivers are then connected back to a central security point. This approach allows excellent flexibility within a gallery.

GLASS

We never use standard float glass to make our showcase structural panels. It is easy to break, and is dangerous to staff and the public if broken. Similarly, we rarely use toughened glass. While this is very hard, it has vulnerable corners and edges and can disintegrate unexpectedly in a dramatic manner harming staff, public and exhibits.

Our preferred material is laminated glass. This is formed by sandwiching a tough PVB plastic interlayer between glass sheets and is the most appropriate type of glass for use in museum showcases. When broken the glass retains its structural integrity providing a physical barrier to theft, preventing broken glass damaging exhibits and reducing the potential danger to staff and public. As an added benefit, laminated glass filters out 97% of ultraviolet light within the wavelengths of 320 to 380 nanometres.

Even higher levels of security can be achieved with the use of multi-layer laminates with polycarbonate interlayers. It is extremely important to check floor loadings at an early stage of the project as cases with thick glass and steel frames for enhanced security can be extremely heavy.

UK GOVERNMENT INDEMNITY

If your case must meet government indemnity requirements, it should be constructed with laminated glass at least 11.5mm thick. Further information and advice is available in the UK from Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, MLA.

Glass thickness	Inter layer thickness	Security performance		
		BS classification	DIN classification	EN classification
6.4mm	0.4			
8.8mm	0.8		DIN 52290-4:A1	(BS/DIN) EN:356 P2A
10.8mm	0.8		DIN 52290-4:A1	(BS/DIN) EN:356 P2A
12.8mm	0.8		DIN 52290-4:A1	(BS/DIN) EN:356 P2A
16.8mm	0.8		DIN 52290-4:A1	(BS/DIN) EN:356 P2A
9.5mm	1.5	BS 5544	DIN 52290-4:A3	(BS/DIN) EN:356 P4A
11.5mm	1.5	BS 5544	DIN 52290-4:A3	(BS/DIN) EN:356 P4A
13.5mm	1.5	BS 5544	DIN 52290-4:A3	(BS/DIN) EN:356 P4A
17.5mm	1.5	BS 5544	DIN 52290-4:A3	(BS/DIN) EN:356 P4A

NOTE: All glass is 3-ply laminated. Safety performance: all glass listed complies to BS 6206 and DIN 52337. This standard is likely to be replaced by (BS/DIN) EN:12600.