

# Premises Information Box™ (PIB)® Systems

Providing essential building information to  
firefighters in the event of an incident



**Providing essential information  
to firefighters can enhance  
their response plan in the  
event of an incident**

**The Premises Information Box™  
(PIB)® System**



Fire risk assessments are an obligatory requirement under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order. The provision of a building's plans and premises information to the Fire & Rescue Service is highlighted in the RR(FS)O guidance. At Gerda® we have worked with fire engineers to develop a system to provide attending fire crews with access to this information.

### **Innovation and Design**

Gerda is at the forefront of innovation, bringing together solutions to meet fire safety and security. The Premises Information Box™(PIB)® System is designed to provide premises plans and information to firefighters and to assist in mitigating damage in the event of an incident.

### **Whole Life Costs**

Our products offer reliability in the environment they are designed for. They offer true value for money both in initial investment and maintenance programmes. Gerda designs and manufactures a range of products uniting fire safety and security.

### **Quality Assurance**

Gerda is an ISO9001 accredited organisation. Our products carry third party accredited certification which means that we are audited by independent UKAS notification bodies, including BM Trada and the British Standards Institute.

### **Credibility**

We work with leading authorities in fire safety and Fire & Rescue Services nationwide, as well as the police initiative Secured by Design, in order to ensure our products not only meet industry standards, but go above and beyond to ensure they are fit for purpose in the environments in which they function.

### **Sustainability**

We strive to provide products and services that offer benefits to the environment through innovative product design and through our every day practice. We work together with customers to provide a holistic approach and our involvement, from local community events to apprenticeship developments in the locality, reflects our ethos for inclusion.

### **Training**

Gerda offers both internal training, to ensure members of staff are up-to-date with the latest products and performance standards, as well as external training in the form of Fire Safety Seminars.

### **Installation and Maintenance Services**

We offer a nationwide installation and maintenance service for the Premises Information Box™(PIB)® System. Gerda's annual maintenance programme, which ensures the longevity of the product, can be linked into your fire risk assessment schedule.

### **Fire Safety Seminars**

Held at the Gerda Conference Centre and Showroom in central London, the Fire Safety seminars are hosted by leading authorities in fire safety. The seminars span specific sector subjects from Fire Safety in High Rise Housing to Continuous Professional Development (CPD) presentations. The seminars include interactive demonstrations that highlight aspects of fire safety.

# The Premises Information Box™ (PIB)® System

The Premises Information Box™ (PIB)® offers a recognised focal point for the provision of premises plans and information to attending firefighters in the event of an incident.



## FIRE SAFETY

### The Premises Information Box™ (PIB)® Initiative

*“the Premises Information Box™ (PIB)® is a system designed to assist in protecting an organisation’s building and assets”*



The history of the Premises Information Box™ (PIB)® lies in a partnership approach with the London Fire Brigade. Exciting new architectural concepts present growing challenges to building designers, with fire safety in such buildings being achieved through increasingly complex fire engineered solutions. Therefore it is essential that attending fire crews can access such information.

For existing buildings there is an ever present need to provide information on contents and layout, as well as hazardous materials. The Fire Engineering Group, part of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) Community Safety Department, recognised a requirement for firefighters to have the secure means of accessing practical information about the fire safety design of a building.

In the early phases of any fire or emergency, the Incident Commander must make quick decisions on how best to bring a situation under control. The effective provision of information to the Fire Service can enhance their response plan. The Premises Information Box™ (PIB)® was designed with the Fire & Rescue Service to provide fire crews with quick access to premises information and building plans.



“To assist in formulating fire fighting tactics and to reduce risks to firefighters, it is essential that relevant, up-to-date and practical information about any complex fire safety design is provided and available at the affected building. Working with Gerda, the Premises Information Box™ has been developed to enable such information to be immediately available on site, while being kept secure.”

**Assistant Commissioner, London Fire Brigade**

*“supported by the insurance sector, leading professionals in health & safety and Fire & Rescue Services in the UK, the Premises Information Box™ (PIB)® has been adopted by organisations nationwide”*



## Legislation & Guidance



In the Government Guidance on the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order, plans and specifications are identified as an aid both to fire risk assessment and to the Fire & Rescue Service in the event of a fire.

The Premises Information Box™ (PIB)® provides a secure, recognised focal point for all parties concerned with the fire safety of a building and the protection of assets within it.

Your building may store hazardous materials, valuable equipment or irreplaceable data; since each premises is unique the PIB® has been designed to accommodate information in a range of formats. The PIB® has the facility to hold A3 plans for the Fire & Rescue Service and CD ROMs with more detailed information, allowing the content to be customised to your building.

### The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order Fire Safety Risk Assessment Guides

outline the importance of the provision of information to the Fire & Rescue Service. These are available for:

- Educational Premises
- Factories and Warehouses
- Healthcare Premises
- Offices and Shops
- Residential Care Premises
- Sleeping Accommodation
- Small and Medium Places of Assembly
- Open Air Events and Venues
- Large Places of Assembly
- Theatres, Cinemas and similar premises
- Transport Premises and Facilities
- Animal premises and stables



### HM Government Fire and Rescue Manual, Volume 2 Fire Service Operations, Environmental Protection

references the need for clear provision of information able to be accessed by fire crews in section 2.3.5, Development of Site Specific Incident Response Plans.

**Fire Safety In Purpose Built Blocks of Flats** Local Government Group Guidance (Page 120) highlights the need for making plans for layout and services available to the Fire & Rescue Services through a Premises Information Box.



**BS9999:2008 Annex M** specifically details the importance of the provision of information “readily accessible to attending fire crews”



**The Prevention and Control of Arson** provides an overview of arson, analyses why and how it occurs and advises on dealing with it effectively.

For further approved codes of practice and guidance please enquire.

## Assisting Firefighters



*"The Premises Information Box™ (PIB)® is a recognised focal point. It provides an advance in safety management and security to fire crews attending incidents and it also has the potential to assist with business resilience."*

**Allister Smith, Property Risk Manager,  
Aviva**

*"We expect the Premises Information Box™ (PIB)® to become a useful tool for fire fighters, enabling them to attack a fire with more knowledge about the building. This will help them reduce risks to the occupants, to themselves and mitigate damage to property."*

**Group Commander, Fire Engineering Group,  
London Fire Brigade**



*"The presence of the PIBs® greatly increases the safety of both the operational personnel and that of the residents at these difficult incidents...having the information gathered within, immediately available for the use of the Incident Commander."*

**Operational Support Manager,  
Humberside Fire & Rescue Service**



Scan the QR tag to find out how  
the Premises Information Box™  
(PIB)® System works in practice

## DESIGN

### The Premises Information Box™(PIB)® Range

#### Standard Specification

Suitable for sheltered external locations.



#### Technical Features

- The lock is designed to allow immediate access to the Fire & Rescue Service through the unique Gerda one key® system
- Aluminium construction
- Not reliant on individuals or power being present
- Each Premises Information Box™(PIB)® has its own unique hologram
- A photo-luminescent sign denotes where to insert the key in the event of poor visibility
- A photo-luminescent Fire & Rescue Service emblem universally recognisable is positioned on the outer face of the door
- An essential design feature of the PIB is to accommodate A3 plans in protective wallets in order that fire crews wearing fire kit and gloves are easily able to view a building's plans and information and assist in the decision making of the incident commander
- Internally there is a Velcro strap for holding the A3 plastic splash-proof sleeves for the containment of plans and information in place, whilst allowing easy access
- There is the option of CD ROM holders on the inner face of the door



#### Security Features

- Tested to EN1303:2005, achieving best grades in all categories, the locking system is approved by Secured by Design, the police preferred specification and is certified with the British Standards Kitemark
- Patented integral cylinder
- Features of the lock include an anti-glue facility and anti-drill cylinder that uses the Hard Soft System, being formed of several composites of metal
- The engineering of the lock is such that the cylinder cannot be extracted
- The lock is positioned on the right side of the box in order to avoid the attention of vandals and to restrict manoeuvring room in the event of an attack
- The handle, made of aluminium alloy, is designed to detach from the face of the door if excessive force is applied, however the door is designed to open upon unlocking using a spring mechanism



## The Premises Information Box™(PIB)® Range

### High Security Specification

Weather-resisting design suitable for external locations.



#### Technical Features

- The lock is designed to allow immediate access to the Fire & Rescue Service through the unique Gerda one key® system
- Steel construction
- Not reliant on individuals or power being present
- Each Premises Information Box™(PIB)® has its own unique hologram
- A photo-luminescent sign denotes where to insert the key in the event of poor visibility
- A photo-luminescent Fire & Rescue Service emblem universally recognisable is positioned on the outer face of the door
- An essential design feature of the PIB is to accommodate A3 plans in protective wallets in order that fire crews wearing fire kit and gloves are easily able to view a building's plans and information and assist in the decision making of the incident commander
- Internally there is a Velcro strap for holding the A3 plastic splash-proof sleeves for the containment of plans and information in place, whilst allowing easy access
- There is the option of CD ROM holders on the inner face of the door
- The key hole is protected with a lock cover to prevent debris entering the lock

#### Security Features

- Designed to LPS1175 : Burglary resistant building components, strongpoints and security enclosures
- The lock cylinder, tested to EN1303:2005, achieves best grades in all categories and is approved by Secured by Design, the police preferred specification
- Independent 2-point locking mechanism (top and bottom)
- Patented integral cylinder
- Features of the lock include an anti-glue facility and anti-drill cylinder that uses the Hard Soft System, being formed of several composites of metal. The engineering of the box is such that the cylinder cannot be extracted
- The lock is positioned on the right side of the box in order to avoid the attention of vandals and to restrict manoeuvring room in the event of an attack
- The handle, made of aluminium alloy, is designed to detach from the face of the door if excessive force is applied, however the door is designed to open upon unlocking using a spring mechanism



## Emergency Response Pack Guidance



As part of the Premises Information Box™ (PIB)® System, users are provided with a guidance manual containing best practice guidelines on how to populate a building's plans and information for attending fire crews.

This guidance includes a CD of symbols to assist with the population of plans - it is advisable to consult with your local Fire Authority with reference to their preferred symbolism.

The guidance and symbols have been developed with experienced fire service professionals.



*“an excellent tool to assist in collating information”*



## Updating Building Plans and Information

It is the responsibility of the building owner or manager to ensure that their premises plans and information for their property are up to date. This may be carried out at the time of the fire risk assessment review and whenever an update is required.

Gerda® has approved partners in building plans compilation. Please enquire for further details.

## Fire & Rescue Service Liaison

Each Premises Information Box™ (PIB)® carries its own identifiable hologram and is tailored to the appropriate Fire & Rescue Service jurisdiction.

The location of each Premises Information Box™ (PIB)® is advised to the Fire & Rescue Service within their jurisdiction. This service enables the Fire & Rescue Services to update this information onto their mobile data systems as required.

The majority of Fire & Rescue Services in the UK carry their unique Gerda One Key® System. To check your fire brigade jurisdiction and whether your Fire & Rescue Service carry the One Key® System please contact Gerda®.



## The Emergency Plans Box (EPB)™

The Emergency Plans Box (EPB)™ is designed for internal locations in non-public areas, where security is not important.



The EPB™ does not operate on the Unique One Key® System for the Fire & Rescue Service.

Features include:

- Steel construction
- Designed for internal locations in non-public areas where security is not important
- Break glass facility
- Square in design with smooth edges
- Internally there is a velcro strap for holding plans and information in place
- The photo-luminescent Fire Service sign is positioned centrally on the face of the door
- Option of keyed alike EPBs™
- Replacement glass cartridges

The Emergency Plans Box (EPB)® is available with the Emergency Response Pack Guidance to assist with consistency of information provided to the Fire & Rescue Service.

## Installation and Maintenance

*“your annual maintenance programme ensures the longevity of your PIB®”*

The Standard and High Security Premises Information Boxes as well as the Emergency Plans Box, are supplied in protective packaging with an installation template, fixing components and installation instructions.

Gerda® offers nationwide installation and maintenance services for the Premises Information Box™ (PIB)® System. Gerda’s annual maintenance programme, which ensures the longevity of the product, can be linked into your fire risk assessment schedule. Please enquire for further information.



## SECURITY

### The Importance of Key Management Technology

*“the unique design of the key is trademarked”*

It is the high value placed on Gerda’s key management technology that makes the innovative high security Gerda® system so well regarded. Gerda first came to work with the London Fire Brigade to solve the problems of unauthorised access to restricted communal areas, such as housing estates, public buildings and public facilities.

The unique multi-dimensional Gerda key® is trademarked and linked to a registered key system. Only registered key holders can request another key for their Premises Information Box™ (PIB)® and this is through authorised channels only.

The Fire & Rescue Services carry their own unique Gerda One Key® System<sup>1</sup> to enable immediate access. A benefit of the system is that if the normal attending crew for a given building is at an incident and another crew from the area or neighbouring area has to attend, they can still gain access to the Premises Information Box™.

Enabling immediate Fire & Rescue access in critical situations through the unique Gerda One Key® System for the Fire & Rescue Service.

#### For Gerda High Security Locking Systems

- Extensively tested with certified third party accreditations
- Awarded prestigious BSI Kitemark
- Achieving both EN12209:2003 and best categories in EN1303:2005 for attack resistance; durability and key related security



KM 524277 BS 3621



KM 524279 BS 8621



KM 524281 BS 10621

Secured by Design



Police National Specification



### The High Security Premises Information Box™ System® (HSS PIB)®

*“the HSS PIB® is designed to offer a high level of performance”*

The HSS PIB® has been developed:

- To address problems of anti-social behaviour
- For the storage of commercially sensitive data
- To be vandal-resistant and to withstand prolonged attacks with hand tools

<sup>1</sup>The majority of Fire & Rescue Services in the UK carry the unique Gerda One Key® system. To check your Fire & Rescue Services jurisdiction, and if this applies to your Fire & Rescue Service, please contact Gerda®

# SUSTAINABILITY

## Environmentally Friendly



This design uses natural materials and reflects our ethos on sustainability



- The steel, brass and aluminium utilised in the manufacture of the Premises Information Box™ (PIB)® Systems and Emergency Plans Box (EPB)™ are recyclable
- The packaging is fully recyclable
- The warranty of the Premises Information Box™ (PIB)® Systems and Emergency Plans Box (EPB)™ is one year. It is a proven system that has been in place on some buildings since its launch in 2004
- The materials utilised in production are non toxic
- The paint is powder-based, non solvent
- The quality management system is ISO9001:2008

## Design

*“the design is the essence of sustainability”*

The very function of the Premises Information Box™ (PIB)® Systems is to provide premises plans and information to attending fire crews in order to mitigate damage to a building.

Martin Shipp from the Building Research Establishment affirms the need for firefighters to have access to practical information about the fire safety design of a building:

*“If a building has not been built to conform to the provisions of Approved Document B, then will the fire brigade know what to expect when they arrive to fight a fire? It is now essential that protocols are developed to ensure that operational firefighters know about the design and fire safety peculiarities of the fire engineered building in which they may have to tackle a fire.”*





# Accreditations



**ISO9001 Quality Management**



**Constructionline** - the largest online database for pre-qualified contractors and consultants



**Continuous Professional Development Certification**



**Safe Contractor** - an accreditation scheme that assesses the health & safety competency of contractors and service providers



**BM Trada Certification for Fire**



**CHAS** - recognised health & safety scheme



**Secured by Design** - the police (ACPO) initiative to ensure high standards in products and measures to prevent crime



**DHF** - The Door and Hardware Federation is responsible for maintaining industry standards



**BM Trada Certification for Security**



**Equality Act** - Our products can be manufactured in line with The Equality Act requirements



**Equal Opportunities** - Gerda is an Equal Opportunities Employer



**Association for Specialist Fire Protection**

# Partnerships



Gerda® works in partnership on training and publications with the **Fire Protection Association**



Gerda® works in partnership in the high security sector with the **Master Locksmiths Association**



NHS TRUSTS & HOSPITALS



ENVIRONMENTAL



HOUSING



HERITAGE



SELF STORAGE



MANUFACTURING



EDUCATION



TRANSPORT



STADIUMS & VENUES



HOUSING RESIDENTIAL CARE



TUNNELS

**“The Premises Information Box is a fantastic example of what can be achieved by the Fire & Rescue Service working in collaboration and partnership within the business sector plus private & public organisations to vastly improve the protection of the people inside buildings and, importantly, provide the essential accurate information immediately for firefighters who are called to any emergencies that occur in them.”**



For a free consultation or information relating to the Gerda range of products please contact us on the number below.

For interactive product demonstrations and dates of Fire Safety Seminars taking place at Gerda's Conference Centre please email:

**[firesafetyseminar@gerdasecurity.co.uk](mailto:firesafetyseminar@gerdasecurity.co.uk)**



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Information is for general purposes only. For detailed specifications to suit your requirements, please contact a member of the Gerda PIB® team who will be pleased to assist. Please read in conjunction with Gerda Terms & Conditions. Gerda reserves the right to amend data at any time.

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