



RF Technologies Supervision Time on a Safe Place Infant Security System

Several customers have recently reported that inspectors from consulting companies, as well as those from state and national agencies, have asked about the proper setting of supervision times in the Safe Place Infant Security System.

As you know, your Safe Place system has both coverage of doors to prevent an infant wearing a transmitter from being taken through a door without authorization and coverage of the interior to notify staff of potential tampering with the Safe Place transmitter. Transmitter supervision is used as part of tamper detection to identify a device that has not checked-in during a pre-set time, and therefore may be "missing."

In the Safe Place System, each transmitter emits a check-in signal every 10 seconds. Your system's interior coverage provides a "check transmitter" alarm when that transmitter check-in signal is not received for an entire supervision time cycle. Supervision times can be configured between 1 minute and 24 hours. For an alarm to be generated with a 1 minute cycle, 6 straight check-in signals must be missed; for a 24 hour cycle, over 8000 straight check-in cycles must be missed to generate the alarm. Supervision time can also be turned off.

There are several reasons that a check-in signal may not be received, such as RF noise and tampering. It is highly possible that RF noise lasting over a minute could block over 6 straight check-ins, resulting in a "check transmitter" alarm if the one minute supervision time is set. Since the main purpose of the supervision feature is to detect tampering, this is in effect a nuisance alarm (although there are times when it is critical to identify a long duration source of RF interference as well).

The benefit of setting a short supervision time is that it allows the system to identify potentially missing devices sooner; however, it may also create frequent nuisance alarms that can create more problems than they solve. Excessive nuisance alarms can create complacency with staff because they begin to assume that every alarm is a nuisance alarm. These nuisance alarms occur more frequently if the transmitters are in a noisy RF environment. As such, proper setting of supervision times is a trade off analysis that must be uniquely tailored to every facility.

It is our mission to not only provide the most secure environment for your patients, but also address issues like this one proactively with our customers. Our personnel will be happy to help you adjust your system's Supervision time to the optimal setting for your facility. Please contact us with any questions or concerns.