# How to specify an automated gate

❍ Decide on the style of gate

- Swing

- Sliding

- Bi Folding Gate

❍ If the gate is to be operated automatically, what mode of operation is to be used?

❍ There are two basic types of operation:

- Deadman - where the gate will only operate when the user holds a control – and the gate is visible throughout the operation of the gate
- Fully Automatic – where the gate will fully open or close once a control is activated (could be an intercom, radio control or time clock)

❍ Consider the roadway where the gate will be sited. Is the ground level?
By reviewing the arc of the gate or where the gate will slide at the outset, additional safety features may not be necessary

❍ The usage frequency / duty cycle of the gate should be assessed to ensure a future proof installation is identified

❍ The specified gate must comply with the Machinery Directive 2006 /42/EC (formerly 98/37/EC) – in order to achieve compliance the gate should either have undergone a full risk assessment OR comply with all of the relevant British Standards. If adopting the Risk Assessment approach, it is recommended that the British Standards are used as a means to identify the various potential risks posed by an automated gate.

❍ A fully automatic gate should feature a minimum of two types of safety device: photocells; pressure edges or protection via the limitation of the forces that are used to operate the gate. Gate Safe advises that photocells and pressure edges should be installed on every gate or barrier.

❍ Control equipment for the automated gate should always be sited on both sides of the gate and push buttons or key switches should be a minimum of 1.5m away from the gate to prevent a person putting their arm through the gate to start the operation.

❍ Consideration should be given to the existing or planned architecture around the gate. Avoid the inclusion of features that represent a further risk eg security toppings are not recommended on a gate that is under 1.8m tall. Similarly check for potential climbing aids which might encourage scaling of the gate

❍ The style of the gate must deliver a design which ensures that gaps above and below the gate should be 100 mm or under. The gaps between the gate post and gate frame should also be 100 mm or under not reducing down by any more than 25mm when the gate operates to prevent the creation of trap points

❍ Since an automated gate is technically a 'machine' the mechanical structure needs to be sufficiently robust to accommodate the automation equipment specified. Ram or underground operators are recommended for swing gates or bi folding gates. Tracked or Cantilever operators for sliding gates

❍ The technical file for the automated gate should include:

- Risk Assessment
- Declaration of Conformity
- Manufacturers label / stamp
- Force Testing results if applicable
- Installation / Maintenance log book

❍ Upon hand over of the gate to the end user, the installer should run through:

- demonstration of the safety device and explanation as to how they work
- demonstration on how to operate the gate
- demonstration on how to isolate the power
- demonstration on how to manually release the system
- explanation of the hazards associated with the gate

❍ The price quoted for the automated gate should include a 12-month fully inclusive maintenance agreement. The cost should also include a training visit for the users of the gate. This may incur an additional visit to site if the user of the gate is not available at the handover stage

❍ An automated gate should ONLY be installed by a suitably trained operative and the electrical connection should be carried out by an electrician qualified to 17th edition of BS EN 7671, with a minimum of three years experience

For more information on how to specify a safe gate please contact us on **0800 41 43 43** or email **info@jacksons-fencing.co.uk**

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