



ISTA^{MATIC}
VISION PANELS

White Paper

What can manual vision access control
do for a secure environment?

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Section 1

Executive Summary

This White Paper will introduce you to the concept of the Vistamatic® Glazed Secure Vision Panel, the simplicity of its design and the ease of its operation.

The notion that the best idea is quite often the simplest idea is evident in the case of the Vistamatic® Glazed Secure Vision Panel. A simple movement of the wrist or elbow operates the product, which then delivers the same control, security and manual vision offered by technical systems costing many more thousands of pounds.

Vistamatic® Glazed Secure Vision Panels are individually manufactured to an exacting standard, carry a lifetime guarantee and should never be confused with inferior products that appear to do the same job.

When specifying glazed secure vision panels ensure that the Vistamatic® brand is specified by name. All Vistamatic products are branded around the operating mechanism of the product.

Vistamatic Ltd is a British company based in the UK with overseas offices in the USA, Hong Kong, Ireland, Spain, Germany, Switzerland, UAE, Qatar and Australia.

For more information on the entire range of Vistamatic® Glazed Secure Vision Panels, please visit www.vistamatic.com or contact Vistamatic® directly on + 44 (0) 20 8500 2200



Section 2

Introduction – Vistamatic® the Company

The Vistamatic® Glazed Secure Vision Panel is a well-established security solution used within the healthcare, custodial and education sectors as well as many other applications where the need for controlled visual observation, security and privacy is paramount. The product provides manual visual access control and observation, and is an effective method of enhancing natural surveillance within a built environment.

Vistamatic® Glazed Secure Vision Panels are manufactured by Vistamatic Ltd in the UK to exacting standards using the highest quality materials.

The Vistamatic® Glazed Secure Vision Panel is available in two forms:

1. Door application – to be factory or retro-fitted into any internal or external door panel, offering manual vision access control and security to public areas, private rooms and any other area where continuous observation is required.
2. Screen application – a larger format Vistamatic® Glazed Secure Vision Panel, which can be used to form a fully secure and visual glazed screen barrier for situations where the public need to be separated from the subject, such as nurses' stations on wards, or any other such application where a greater visual presence with built-in security and a more hygienic environment is required.

The Vistamatic® Glazed Secure Vision Panel is internationally recognised by architects and carries the coveted *Secured By Design* endorsement, as well as the registered trademark legend which is warranted by a lifetime guarantee.

Section 3

The Problem

In many environments, the need for security with visual control would be managed with the assistance of electronic technology. However, such measures are not without their problems; associated costs, maintenance fees, susceptibility to vandalism, obsolescence, and the list goes on.

Consider with this the march of progress, remembering that as soon as technology is current, it fast passes into obsolescence. It ages in front of you, waiting for the next generation upgrade, such is the current trend. This is the fragility of the technological revolution.

Controlling an environment with cameras, monitors and recording equipment is effective and foolproof; however, there are a number of considerations that make this type of measure inappropriate and expensive.

Electronic surveillance and security measures are:

- Costly to purchase
- Costly to install
- Require maintenance
- Prone to failure
- Attract vandals
- Suffer from obsolescence
- Lack empathy
- Attack dignity
- Prone to ineffectuality through failure.

What if a simpler solution was available, that didn't suffer from any of the above? A far simpler way of tackling the issue of security with visual observation whilst maintaining the dignity of the individual can be achieved by using Vistamatic® Glazed Secure Vision Panels.

Where do these problems exist? Just about everywhere security and a sight-line are specified to exist together. These areas include hospitals, clinics, healthcare centres, custodial environments, schools and wherever observation of a subject is necessary and the dignity of the subject being observed come into the equation.



What are the most common problems that are solved simply and easily by using the Vistamatic® Glazed Secure Vision Panels? Consider the following scenarios.

In a hospital

- A patient in hospital needs constant supervision and day-to-day observation. There is a risk of cross infection and the dignity of the patient is paramount and cannot be compromised.
- A patient requires close care and total isolation and may need to be in a secure environment.
- A patient is susceptible to self-harming and requires supervision, within a secure environment.
- A nurse's station in a psychiatric hospital needs to have an uninterrupted view of the patients in the ward, but due the violent nature of those patients, a level of security is demanded by the duty nurses.
- How do you actively monitor the behaviour of high-risk patients that may present a threat to their own wellbeing as well as that of the staff around them?

In a school

- How does a school conduct surveillance of a number of corridor areas, where unruly behaviour is left unchecked because of limitations in electronic or visual security, which cause blind spots and create areas where pupils can misbehave?
- How do you solve the problem of uninvited interruptions during lessons within schools or education facilities?
- How do you control the access of individuals in specific out-of-bounds areas?



In a police station

- An interview room in a police station needs to be secure, as well as providing officers the ability to survey the subject inside.
- Electronic surveillance equipment has previously been damaged and vandalised to the point that it no longer works.
- How can you create visibility through a high-specification, steel security door?

At home

- How can you check the identity of any visitor to your home, who may be a bogus caller, without risk to yourself?
- How can you protect an elderly relative, who is fiercely independent, and lives alone, from unwanted intruders?

All of these individual scenarios can be addressed by using a Vistamatic® Glazed Secure Vision Panel.



Section 4

Vistamatic® – Solving the Problem

The Vistamatic® Glazed Secure Vision Panels definitively prove that simplicity can triumph over technology in an advancing world? However, does simplicity conflict with technology or can they co-exist together?

Vistamatic® Glazed Secure Vision Panels provide manual access control with visibility that meets the needs of the modern environment. The Vistamatic® Glazed Secure Vision Panel can be fitted into any type of door, either offsite as part of the manufacturing process, or retro-fitted to an existing door panel as part of a refurbishment. With a range of finishes, sizes and panel shapes, the product offers unlimited applications.

- The Vistamatic® Glazed Secure Vision Panel is a product which plays an integral part in building secure and safe environments, whilst creating a therapeutic and calming space which is secure and respects the individual's dignity and privacy.
- Vistamatic® vision panels are ergonomically designed, simple to use, maintenance-free and come with a unique lifetime warranty. A Vistamatic® vision panel offers security with vision that is neat, aesthetic, architecturally designed, clean, hygienic, maintenance-free and sustainable.
- The Vistamatic® Glazed Secure Vision Panel also creates a positive experience for members of staff, as it enables them to remain protected behind a closed door and can improve efficiencies within a working space.
- Vistamatic® Glazed Secure Vision Panels are the choice of architects and designers providing a real and simple solution to the design challenge of creating private and secure public environments in a simple and cost-effective manner.



Section 5

The Product

The Vistamatic® Glazed Secure Vision Panel system consists of two outer panels of 6mm tempered safety glass and an inner panel of 4mm annealed glass, which are set within a metal U channel.

By a simple movement of the wrist or elbow, the operating mechanism controls the inner pane of glass, causing it to rise and fall, thus aligning the etched pattern which allows the user to move from clear to obscure vision through the panel, depending upon preference.

To enable the Vistamatic® Glazed Secure Vision Panels to be used in a host of environments, alternative glass combinations are available, which include:

- Fire rated glasses
- Laser proof materials
- X-ray glasses
- High security glasses

The operating lever that controls the visibility through the vision panel can be fitted on both sides of the panel or just one side. There are four different types of lever handles available:

- Single or double Chrome Lever Handle – simply operated by a hand or elbow
- Stainless steel anti-ligature knurled knob for use in areas that require special security
- Restricted key operation. This stainless steel, single-side operation with a removable key and a free-floating bezel is ideal for application where extra security is required.
- Key and Knurled knob.



Section 6

The Product Design

The unobtrusive design of all Vistamatic® Glazed Secure Vision Panels effortlessly lends itself to be used in a variety of architectural interiors and immediately enhances a space within a given environment.

The etched linear lines on the glass panes within the panel are subtle yet contemporary. The linear design is aesthetically pleasing and introduces an architectural feature to conventional areas such as corridors and hospital rooms.

The installation of a Vistamatic® glazed vision panel within a door can completely transform a space through the introduction of light. Even in the closed position, vision panels reflect light and play an integral part in creating brighter and airier environments which enhance the wellbeing of individuals.

Vistamatic® Glazed Secure Vision Panels are designed to blend in harmoniously with the environment and are favoured by architects and designers, due to their slim stylish profile, clean architectural lines and use of aesthetically-pleasing materials. The product is now available as a fully-flush finished unit making it ideal for sterile areas where ease of cleaning is vital.

Section 7

Evaluation

The Vistamatic® Glazed Secure Vision Panel is manufactured entirely from recyclable materials, is manufactured in the UK and is made by a traditional British manufacturing company.

The Vistamatic® Glazed Secure Vision Panel is a simple concept yet revolutionary, as it changes how a door works and what that door can deliver in terms of privacy and security. Its initial introduction within the healthcare environment has been so successful, that it is now specified for other environments such as schools, banks, prisons, police headquarters and the housing sector.

Due to demand, the research and development of this product is ongoing, resulting in the latest Vistamatic® innovation; The Vistamatic Flush-Fit, a flush-fitting glazed secure vision panel, is ideal for maintaining hygiene in laboratories and clean rooms.

The product has also been developed to meet *Secured By Design* requirements for a higher integrity of security performance in built environments such as hospitals. Vistamatic® high security vision panels have been designed exclusively for a high-specification, security steel door range and perform to LPS1175 level SR2 and SR3.

In summary, we can conclude the Vistamatic® Glazed Secure Vision Panel is:

- Highly effective.
- Sustainable.
- Easy to install.
- Even easier to operate.
- Maintenance free.
- Requires no servicing.
- Requires no power supply.
- Can operate 24/7, 365 days of the year.
- Economical.

The Vistamatic® Glazed Secure Vision Panel carries a lifetime warranty.

Case Study

Vistamatic® vision panels are specified for the new Cystic Fibrosis ward at Northern General Hospital in Sheffield

The Cystic Fibrosis Ward at Northern General Hospital, managed by the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, has been relocated and refurbished. The new vibrantly coloured, twelve-bed ward designed by Race Cottam Associates has the feel of a boutique hotel, rather than a hospital and features secure vision panels as an integral part of the refurbishment.

The ward has been designed to make the days of enforced isolation and treatment as enjoyable as possible as patients can need hospital treatment for up to two weeks at a time, several times a year. Each room reflects a different theme, ranging from a New York loft to an Oriental garden and the ward now has high tech computer and audio equipment donated by the builders, BAM Construction.

Fifteen Vistamatic® vision panels have been installed on the ward. The twelve patient rooms, the ward gym and the two treatment rooms all have Vistamatic® panels. The vision panels serve a number of purposes, benefitting both staff and patients.

Cystic Fibrosis (CF) patients need their own rooms and cannot mix with other patients because of the risk of infection. Being able to observe patients discreetly through a vision panel without opening the door greatly reduces the risk of spreading germs.

In addition, being able to monitor patients without disturbing them preserves patient dignity. While regular observation is essential, nursing staff commented that their decision to go into the room is based on what they see through the vision panel. From a patient's perspective, they are not unnecessarily disturbed, which again complements the designed environment. The panels can be operated from either side of the door, meaning that when a procedure is in progress, or the patient wants privacy, the vision panels can be closed.

Patients with CF need regular treatments and tests. The installation of Vistamatic® vision panels to the two treatment rooms on the ward ensures that medical procedures are conducted in privacy. The closed vision panel indicates to anyone outside the room that a treatment is in progress and



prevents treatment being disrupted. This is particularly important as CF patients are very susceptible to infections, particularly from other CF patients.

Exercise forms an important part of treating CF and can also help boost the patient's immune system and mental attitude. There is a gym on the ward, but nursing staff need to be able to check on patients. The installation of a vision panel on the gym door ensures that staff can discreetly monitor patients while also giving patients the option of exercising in privacy. Again, the closed vision panel indicates that the gym is in use.

Aesthetically, the vision panels fit in well with the modern ward design and the wooden panel surrounds create a warm, homely effect. The glass panels reflect the vibrant colours featured throughout the ward, creating a bright and open environment. The ward, which caters for patients over the age of 16 with Cystic Fibrosis, opened functionally on 26th June 2010, but will have its official opening later this year. The project looks sure to provide and sustain future-proof care to patients with Cystic Fibrosis and will act as a benchmark for other Health Trusts.

"The Cystic Fibrosis unit represents innovative and creative design utilizing best practice, best materials and best design concepts all to embrace the needs of young CF patients; Vistamatic has added form, function and value to the project, blending well with the high tech nature of the healthcare facility"

Mark Hattersley
Capital Projects Director, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust





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