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A Technical Resource from
Mallory Sonalert Products

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5 Things You Need to Know to Specify Audible Alarms

We were tempted to title this "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Specifying Audible Alarms", but the truth is that you really don't need to know everything to specify an audible alarm. In fact, if you can answer just a few basic questions, you're almost there:

Sonalert® audible alarms are available in a wide variety of tones, sound levels, voltages, mountings, and terminations.

1. What is the application for your alarm?

Where will the alarm be used? Will it be in an elevator? In a hospital or light industrial application? Or, will it be in an outdoor application or even a hazardous environment? The answer to this question helps determine not only the sound level you'll need, but also whether you'll need an alarm such as those in our Sonalert® SCH Series, which are UL and CSA recognized for use in hazardous location applications.

2. What kind of tone (sound) do you need?

Sonalert® audible alarms are available in a wide variety of tones, including continuous, intermittent, fast & slow pulse, chimes, chirps, warbles, sirens, clicking sounds, and even cuckoo sounds. Or, you might need one of our multi-tone alarms or one of our "step-up" alarms that increase in loudness after 15 seconds. We also have a variety of specialty sounds.

3. How loud does your alarm need to be?

Required volume is primarily a function of application and ambient environment. Sonalert® audible alarms are available in soft, medium, loud and extra loud sound levels. The sound level selected should be appropriate for the application and the surrounding environment. It is important that the alarm's tone doesn't "melt into" or get drowned out by the background noise and that it not be confused with other alarms or devices. If your panel mount alarm is too loud, you can add Mallory's volume shutter accessory (P/N SCVC).

4. What voltage is required?

Audible alarms require either an AC or DC actuation signal. For board mounted devices, signal voltage will usually be 24 VDC or less, while panel mounted alarms can range from 1 VDC to 250 VAC.

5. What mounting and termination configurations do you require?

We have a variety of mounting and termination configurations that can meet almost any application requirement, including panel mounted alarms with terminals or terminal blocks, board mount, bracket mount, etc. Our extremely popular Solutions series of alarms feature an embedded socket and a pluggable terminal block that provides finger-proof safe handling, prevents shock and shorting, and saves assembly time and labor.

Those are the basics, but our web site has a wealth of additional information.

To download articles or to listen to the sounds described above, please click on the links below.