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The EmerCall system complies fully with the recommendations of BS 5839 part 9:2003 and totally meets the recommendations of BS5839 part 9: 2003 which specifies the operation of such systems. An Emergency Voice Communication System (EVCS) is defined as a fixed bi-directional full duplex secure communication system for use in emergencies, and covers the operation of both **fire telephone systems** and **disabled refuge systems**. **Where both systems are to be fitted in a building the Standard specifies they should form a single system.**

It is a popular myth that a disabled refuge system (an Emergency Voice Communication System as designed by the Standard BS5839 Part 9:2003), is for wheelchair users only. This myth stems from the requirement in the building regulations that there should be a space to accommodate a wheelchair user, these however are not the only users of the system.

A disabled refuge is defined as a location for people who are mobility impaired who will impede the general egress from the building, or need assistance in leaving the building. This obviously includes wheelchair users who may have used the lift, but also covers the elderly, pregnant women over 6 month term, people with arthritis, in fact anyone who cannot walk 200 metres without a break.

The Office for National Statistics census results for 2001 show that 0.47% of the population are wheelchair bound, however 12.7% of the population are diagnosed as unable to walk 200 metres unaided.

The disability sign being a wheelchair further perpetrates the myth, this is the international symbol for disabilities and covers all disability type both mental and physical.

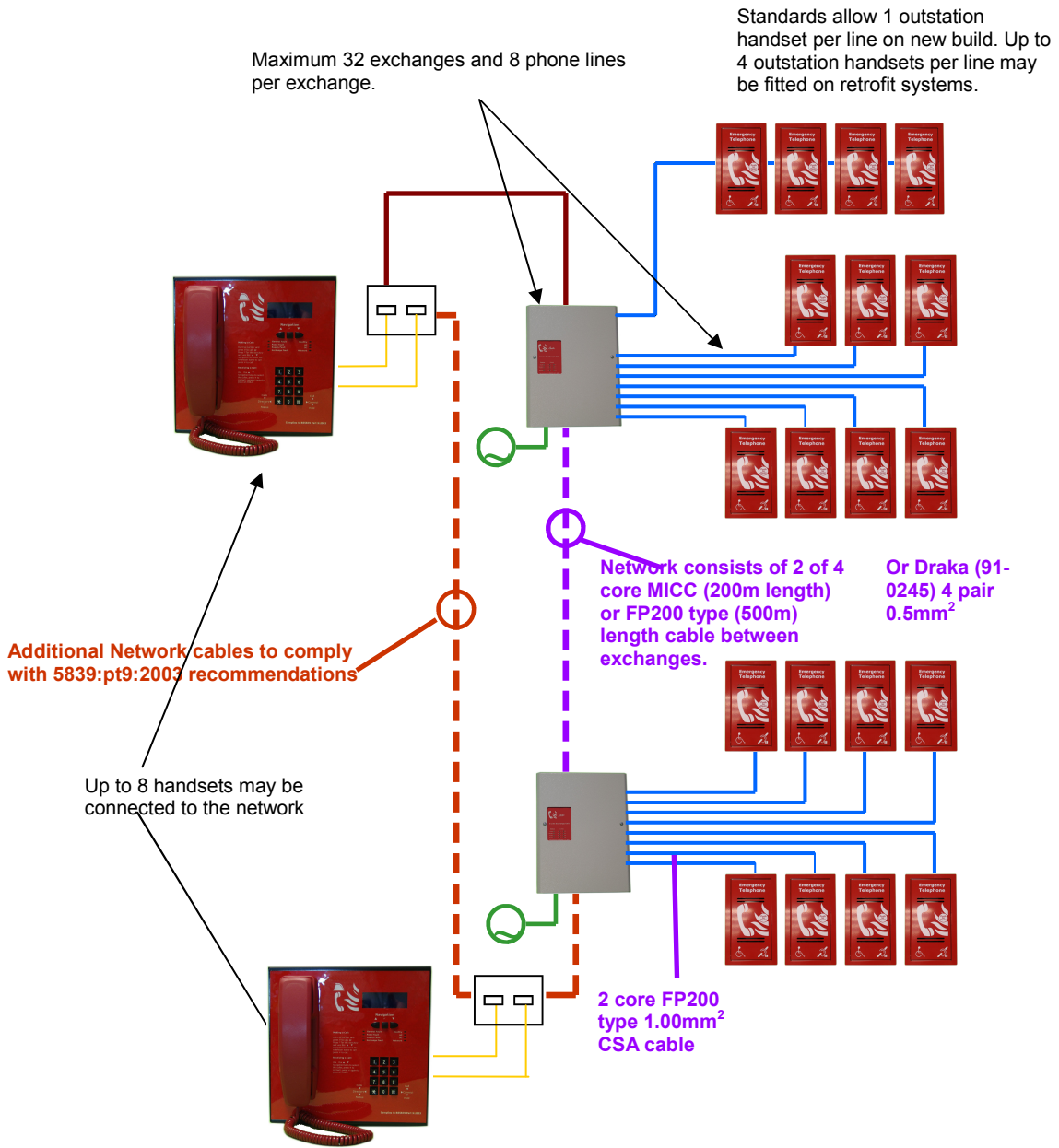
The design marketing of most disabled refuge systems predates the publication of BS5839 Pt 9:2003, and derives from the definitions posted in BS5588 parts 5, 8, 10 & 11; it was because of this lack of clarity that BS5839 pt 9:2003 was written, and therefore designs based on BS5588 should not be held as the definitive description of system use and operation.

Section 11 of BS5839 Pt 9:2003 deals with outstation types, and states the following:

11.1.2.a Type A should be used for evacuation or fire fighting use, and a type B unit should only be used where a type A is impractical.

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FIRE TELEPHONE & DISABLED REFUGE



11.1.2.b For disabled refuge types A or type B can be used, however in locations (section 11.6.2.i) type B outstations can only be used where the background noise is below 40dBA (therefore there can be no sounder or voice alarm coverage in the area).

It should also be noted that the communications on an Emergency Voice Communications System should be Full Duplex, (section 9.1) and not Simplex or VOX switched simplex, therefore control of the conversation on a compliant EVCS should not be governed by a push to talk on the master handset.

Because of the above, and the fact that the **EmerCall** system was designed for use by multi-disability users, having high contrast signage in line with RNIB guidelines and induction loop coil (to BSEN60118-4) in the handset we recommend type A outstation handsets in all locations. Otherwise you would have to consider acoustic hoods or two outstation handsets in each location for compliance with the other associated standards and laws, including BS8200 and the DDA (Disabilities Discrimination Act).

**EmerCall** benefits from taking into account all points in BS5839 pt 9:2003 during the design.