

# eurosafe uk

an association of British safe makers, importers and distributors

## DO WE PRACTICE WHAT WE PREACH?

A UK wing of Eurosafe was first suggested many years ago but it rather fell on deaf ears. However the controversy regarding the re-testing of safes from a certain Eastern European test house led to it being revived. When a meeting was held at the Security Institute to discuss the founding of Eurosafe UK, there was overwhelming support from everyone there.

When we later discussed the aims and objectives of the new association of British safe makers, importers and distributors, the main concern seemed to be addressing the problem of cheap imported safes claiming to have been tested in accordance with EN1143-1. When some of these safes were acquired and submitted to unofficial testing by a Eurosafe UK member company and observed by members of the AiS Safe Committee, it seemed obvious that there were still considerable inconsistencies.

Consequently, when the Eurosafe UK Code of Practice was drafted, high on the agenda was a requirement for all member companies marketing safes tested and certified in accordance with EN1143-1 to clearly state the name of the test house issuing the certification. It further required members selling safes tested and certified by non EFSG laboratories to caution that their customer's insurer may reduce the expected level of indemnity. Of course, new member companies require a reasonable period of time to amend literature and catalogue entries but it should not take too long to correct website copy.

It has been noticed that some members' web-sites have still not been amended even though a reasonable period has expired. Consequently, it has been agreed that in the first instance, an audit of members web-sites will be conducted over the next few weeks to ensure that we are all practising what we preach. Literature, catalogue entries and advertising copy will follow.

## THE GREAT RE-CYCLER DEBATE CONTINUES

Eyebrows were raised recently when it was discovered that Safetell were marketing their Bidi Safe Magnum claiming it had been tested to EN1143-1 and was rated as Grade 0. How could this be? This is obviously a deposit safe and therefore shouldn't it be tested to EN1143-2, the standard for testing and rating deposit safes? When we sought advice from those who test and certify safes, we received contrasting views. One suggested that as it clearly contains slots through which cash can be transacted it is likely to mean that it fails to meet the requirements of EN1143-1 and their claims could possibly contravene UK and EU trade description laws. However, another source stated that as it both deposits and dispenses cash, it is actually a note re-cycler and could be classed as an ATM. In this case it could be tested and certified under EN1143-1 ATM. Nonetheless, they pointed out that this standard does not include tests for fishing or manipulation and would be far better to be tested to EN1143-2. So, where does that leave us? If it is an ATM their literature should clearly state that it is tested to EN1143-1 ATM. If it is a deposit safe then it is only valid if tested to EN1143-2? We asked Mick Fitch, Chairman of the AiS Safe Committee for his comments. His response was unequivocal. As these devices are not designed to be used as conventional cash safes, users should be recommended to regard them purely as 'day safes', used during working hours in areas where staff supervise their use. At the end of the trading day cash should be removed and secured in a suitable tested and certified cash safe of a grade appropriate to the value of the required indemnity. We have been advised by Safetel that their literature will be amended.

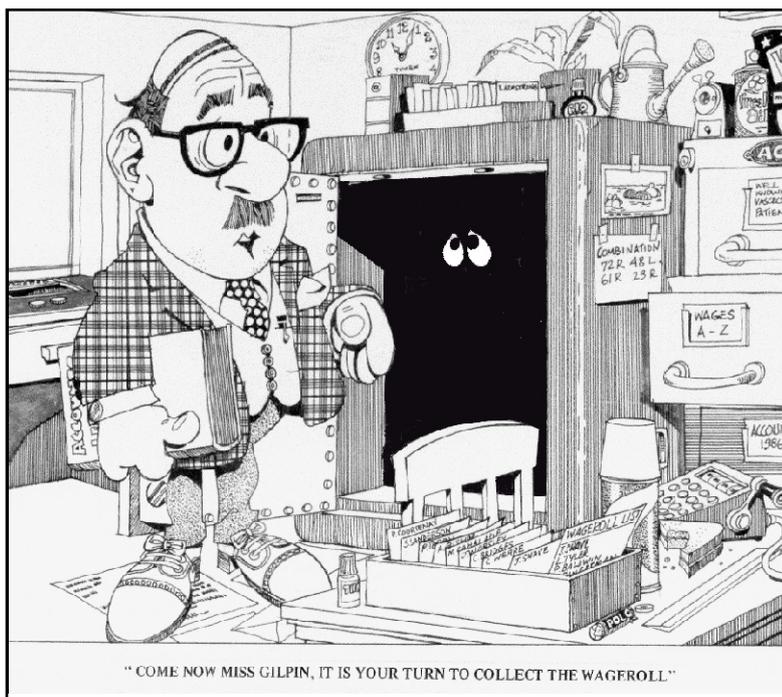


### DAVID POTTER - CARTOONIST EXTRAORDINAIRE

Had you been in the insurance or security industries in the days of Security Surveyor magazine produced by Paramount Publications, you would have been one of hundreds, if not thousands who, having received the latest copy of the magazine, rapidly flipped through the pages to see if it featured a cartoon by David Potter. As you will see from this example, he was the most amazing draughtsman. His cartoons had to be scrutinised for all the little details and references. For example, the pay packets in the box in the foreground contains names that many of us will remember well; Jim

Shave, Colin Weare, Lance Tyler, Peter

Baldwin, Colin Bridges, Sandy Sanderson, Jack Worsley, Peter Courtenay, Peter Terry, Peter Baldwin, Mike Cahalane, not to mention the filing cabinet containing 'Well Known Vasectomy Patients'. Surprisingly, David was not a professional cartoonist but a Security Surveyor with Sedgewick Forbes. Our thanks to TSI Security for allowing us to reproduce this vintage cartoon..



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## A 'VIRTUAL' SAFE FOR BITCOINS?

Look up Bitcoins on Wikipedia and you are likely to end up more confused than when you started. Apparently it is a 'crypto currency' as it uses cryptography to control the creation and transfer of money. With a capital B, Bitcoin refers to the technology and bitcoin with a lower case b is the actual currency itself. So far, so good. Participants verify and record payments into a public ledger in exchange for transaction fees and newly minted bitcoins. 'Newly minted bitcoins' suggest that they actually exist as shown. Further proof of this is the reported seizure by the FBI of bitcoins to the value of US\$28.5 billion. The European Banking Authority has warned that Bitcoin lacks consumer protections and bitcoins can be stolen. If bitcoins actually have a



physical presence as minted coins, then presumably they are as vulnerable to physical attack as they are to online fraud or cyber attack.

If the FBI could seize the equivalent of \$28.5 billion, surely there must be an awful lot of real bitcoins sitting in a vault somewhere. As far it is possible to establish, all thefts have been 'virtual' and it is easy to imagine that all around the world there are crooked computer geniuses working hard to find ways of transferring a small fortune into their accounts. Life seemed a whole lot simpler when real criminals attacked real safes stuffed with real money.

## NEW SAFE ATTACK TOOL IN EVERYONE'S POCKET?



In the last issue we featured the unofficial tool tests conducted at the BRE during our meeting there. Now a powerful new tool has been developed. It costs just a few pounds and is so small that concealing it about one's person is no problem at all. It is the ubiquitous memory stick.

Criminals have developed a much gentler way of plundering ATMs than using explosive gases. By cutting a

hole in the fascia to gain entry to a USB socket, they used a memory stick to introduce some clever malware. Once this was achieved they concealed the hole and were able to return at their leisure, enter a 12 digit code and produce details of how much was in the machine and in what denominations. They could then target the highest denominations to extract as much cash as possible in the shortest period of time.

If you are going to embark on a life of crime, these days you would be better off getting a degree in computer programming sciences than ask an old lag to show you how to use a stick of jelly or work an oxyacetylene torch.



THIS OLD SAFE didn't fall on Jack Daniel, but it may as well have.

One morning in 1905, the safe wouldn't cooperate with its owner (he thought he knew the combination well). Mr Jack lost his temper and kicked it hard enough to break his big toe. Infection took a lot of people in those days, and a few years later, it took Jack Newton Daniel. Faithful to his ways, we've never altered the whiskey that bears his name. Nor, we'll admit, ever found reason to mess with that old safe.



SMOOTH SIPPIN'  
TENNESSEE WHISKEY

## A CAUTIONARY TALE!

No doubt many of our reader are familiar with the USA's best selling bourbon but as you enjoy the clink of the ice in your favourite glass in anticipation of pouring two fingers of the golden liquid, how many of you will know that the founder's safe was quite literally, the death of him?. Our Chairman Ben Lewis spotted an advert describing how an ill tempered response to its uncooperative combination lock led to his ultimate demise. it seems that this ancient safe has become quite an attraction at their Kentucky headquarters.



REMINDER: Our next meeting is on 26th June in Manchester, courtesy of Associated Security.

Got something to say? Visit our forum at [www.eurosafeuk.org](http://www.eurosafeuk.org) to share you thoughts.