



# **Yorkshire Electric Gates Ltd**

Professional Gate Installation and Automation

## **The Importance of Maintenance to Automated Gates**

The UK Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations require that automated gate systems are safe when put into service for the first time. This is now much better understood in the UK since the dark days of the 'noughties' when between 2000 and 2010 there was a spate of child deaths and injuries involving automated gate systems.

What is perhaps still less well understood is that the Regulations also require that new gate systems are provided with detailed operation and maintenance manuals. The operation and maintenance manual is an important document; it explains how to use the system safely and how to keep it maintained in a safe condition.

Gate systems, like cars and boilers or any other piece of equipment, require regular maintenance and safety checks. Without this critical work, a system will quickly become unreliable and, more importantly, unsafe. Without regular safety inspection, cleaning, lubrication, adjustment and safety testing, your gate system will start to deteriorate.

There are also legal considerations to take account of. In this world of blame culture and the proliferation of 'no-win-no-fee' lawyers just waiting for the opportunity to sue, it is important to consider the legal implications of having an unsafe gate system on your property. Any person who by their actions, or inaction, causes injury to persons or property, could face legal action for negligence. As automated gate systems have in the past caused several deaths, it is even possible that the owner of an unsafe gate system could be charged with manslaughter in the event of a death caused by an unsafe or poorly maintained gate system.

Automated gate maintenance is a specialist activity; it requires training, knowledge and experience coupled with specific test equipment. It is important to ensure that customers contract a properly qualified specialist company to perform regular planned maintenance.

The required frequency of maintenance should be explained in your operation and maintenance manual but, in any case, it should be sufficient and reflect the design of the system, the environmental exposure of the site, the frequency of operation and the vulnerability of users and passers-by.

Regular maintenance protects not only the safety and security of your family, it also protects the safety of visitors and passers-by, your initial investment, and your legal obligations.