



# Key deposit boxes





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## Task of the key deposit box

In some situations it is desirable for a key, such as the key to the main door of a house, is available directly on the spot. This is particularly true if in emergencies (e.g. in the event of a fire), the rescue services have to be able to get into the building. Of course it's not a question of leaving the key "under the mat" or "with the neighbour".

**Improper storage of keys leads to a loss of insurance cover.**

The key deposit box, DIN 14675 speaks of the "Feuerwehrschlüsseldepot FSD" (translated Fire service key deposit box), offers the possibility of leaving the key where it is easily accessible to authorised third parties while preventing access to any unauthorised persons. The key deposit box therefore has to be equally as well protected against burglary as the actual property being protected – possibly even better.

The availability of the key to the premises prevents the fire brigade having to use force to gain access in the event of an emergency. Forced entry almost always results in considerable damage and is particularly annoying if the "fire" proves to be a false alarm. The damage caused is not paid for by the fire brigade.

## Classes and description

Guidelines [VdS 2105](#) distinguish between three types of key deposit box.

**SD1** are boxes for outdoor use. This is the simplest class of key deposit boxes and is generally manufactured from a single lay of sheet steel. In view of the relatively low security level, building keys must not be deposited here. SD1 key deposit boxes should only be used for keys to gates, barriers, etc. of no security-relevant importance.

SD1 key deposit boxes do not provide a connection to an alarm system.

# Key deposit boxes

An alternative to the SD1 can be the fire brigade lock (in Germany called "Feuerweherschloss").



This type of lock has two locking cylinders that can open and close the lock independently of one another. One of the two cylinder keys belonging to the lock is in the possession of the fire brigade.

**SD2** are more sturdy boxes that are installed in or on a building outside wall. Keys deposited here permit access to areas of no particular security-relevant importance, e.g. to multi-storey car parks and stairways.

The SD2 is controlled by a fire detection and alarm system (FDAS). The monitoring of deposited keys by means of an intruder alarm system is not provided for.

**SD3** are boxes that are completely surrounded by walls and protected from being drilled open on all sides.

In contrary to SD1 and SD2, keys can be deposited in SD3 that also permit access to security-relevant areas.

In order to reliably detect any attempted unauthorised access, monitoring measures are provided for. The SD3 is connected to both a fire detection and alarm (FDAS) and an intruder alarm system (IAS).



## Function of key deposit boxes of classes SD2 and SD3

The high degree of security is achieved by the combination of different security principles. Access to the inside of a key de-



posit box is via two sturdy doors. The outside door is electrome-



chanically locked. It can only be opened when it has previously been released by the fire detection and alarm system (FDAS), e.g. by a fire alarm being given.

Alternatively, only the fire brigade can open the door manually using a release element. A fire alarm is triggered manually with this release element. This unlocks the outer door of the key deposit box. A key that only the fire brigade has is required to actuate the release element.

When the outer door has been unlocked, a key that is also only in the possession of the fire brigade can be used to open the inner door and gain access to the key of the property.

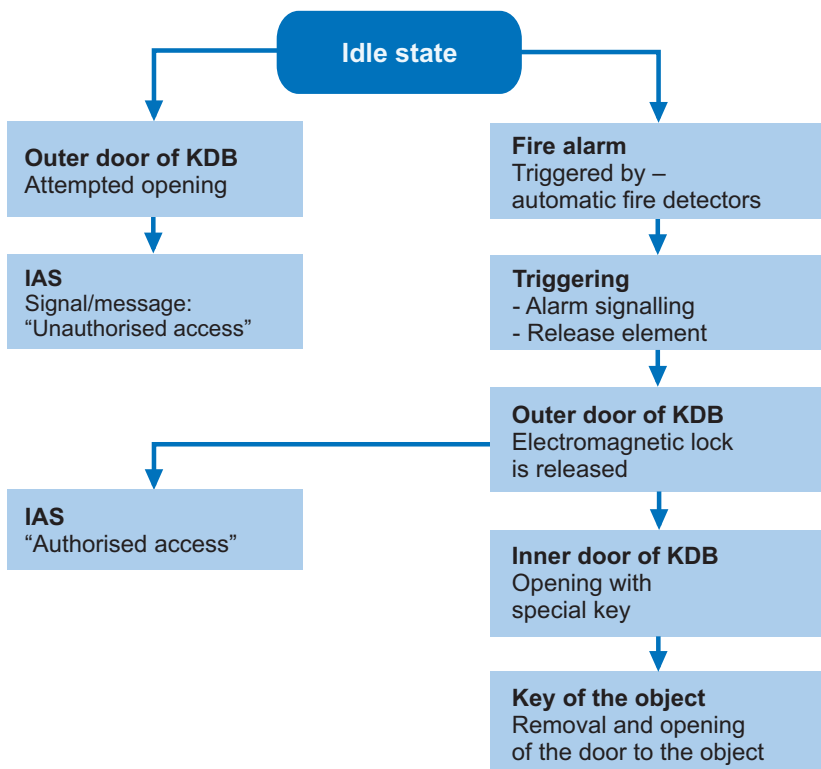
In the case of the SD3, the outer door is monitored by the intruder alarm system of the secured property in addition to the measures described above.

## Are IAS and FDAS necessary?

In order to guarantee the reliable function of the SD2 and SD3, the property must dispose of a fire detection and alarm system (FDAS). The key deposit box can only be opened when an alarm has been given via the FDAS.

SD2 boxes, in addition have to be surveilled by an intruder alarm system.

If a burglary occurs in which a key taken from the key deposit box was used, the insurance company will generally only pay for the damage if it had previously been informed of the installation of the key deposit box and the key deposit box was used in accordance with the instructions of the insurance company – in other words, application for insurance cover must be made before the key deposit box is put into service.



## Key deposit boxes past and present

What is today referred to as a key deposit box used to be called a fire brigade key box (in Germany “Feuerwehrschlüsselkasten - FSK”). The term was changed because other applications, e.g. in the field of service operations, alarm verification on site by security companies, etc., are also conceivable.

Today there are different designs, while still meeting the security demands.

# Key deposit boxes

In order not to jeopardise the insurance cover, the following points should be considered:

- The installation of a key deposit box shall be noticed to the burglary and theft insurance company as the installation **increases the risk**.
- If a burglary occurs after the intruder has gained access using the key removed from the key deposit box and the key deposit box is not VdS-approved or was not installed, operated, monitored and maintained in accordance with the VdS guidelines, then the **insurance cover is at risk**.
- **Only VdS-approved lockings** that are not used at the same time for other purposes have to be fitted to the inside doors of the key deposit box.
- Key deposit boxes shall be **maintained** at regular intervals. *Note: Depending on the field of application of the key deposit box, the maintenance services of the intruder alarm systems and/or fire alarm systems and the key holder (e.g. the fire brigade) have to be present during servicing.*
- If continuous monitoring of the SD3 by the IAS is not assured for technical or organisational reasons, the **house key shall be immediately removed**; furthermore, the lock in the inner door of the key deposit box shall be removed by the key holder or his representative.

## Provision of keys

Key deposit boxes offer the possibility of depositing up to three keys. If the key deposit box does not have a separate dispensing container for each key (e.g. a monitored locking cylinder), the keys shall be inseparably linked together.

If a code in the form of a combination of letters or numbers (PIN) is required in addition to the deposited key for an intruder alarm system (IAS), this code must not be deposited in the key deposit box. An existing ancillary control equipment (ACE) with mental identification feature shall be electronically bypassed during authorised opening and removal of the key.

## Methods of installation

Modern key deposit boxes are available in a variety of designs.

- The most frequently used design is the box-shaped key deposit box recessed in the wall (corresponds most closely to the fire brigade key boxes (in Germany "Feuerwehrschlüsselkasten – FSK" previously used);



- The tubular key deposit box recessed in the wall (currently approved only as SD2) is the most compact variant, e.g. with a diameter of 4 cm and a length of 20 cm;
- The key deposit box integrated into a free-standing pillar requires the most extensive installation work.

These demanding solutions can also be integrated into modern architectures.



## Installation of key deposit boxes

In order that a key deposit box functions correctly and its use does not result in any disadvantages, it should be installed by the manufacturer or by an installation company authorised by the manufacturer. The connection of the key deposit box to the fire detection and alarm system (FDAS) and the intruder alarm system (IAS) shall be carried out by the installer of the respective system. The names of corresponding specialist companies are contained in the listings mentioned below.





## Listings

All VdS-certified products are itemised in lists by VdS Schadenverhütung. These lists are available in printed form and on the Internet. Here a potential user can check whether, for example, a lock or key cylinder has undergone VdS testing and in which class the approval was granted.

## VdS publications

### Brochures

- VdS 5478en** Windows
- VdS 5479en** Doors
- VdS 5480en** Intruder alarm systems
- VdS 5483en** Safe storage units and strongrooms

### Listings of VdS-approved products and services

- VdS 2137** VdS-anerkannte Errichterfirmen für EMA (VdS-approved installation companies for intruder alarm systems)
- VdS 2139** VdS-anerkannte Schlüsseldeposits und -adapter (VdS-approved Key deposit boxes and adapters)
- VdS 2378** VdS-anerkannte Errichterfirmen für BMA (VdS-approved installation companies for fire detection and alarm systems)
- VdS 2864** VdS-zertifizierte Fachfirmen für Brandmeldeanlagen nach DIN 14675 (VdS-certified specialist companies for fire alarm systems to DIN 14675)

### Guidelines

- VdS 2105en** Key deposit boxes, Requirements for system components

**VdS 2350en** Key deposit boxes, Planning, installation and maintenance

**VdS 2570** Publikationen zur Sicherungstechnik auf CD-ROM (Publications on security technology on CD-ROM)

All listings and other information are also available on the Internet under [www.vds.de](http://www.vds.de).



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