



Premier Gate Automation

Electric Gate Safety and Compliance – A Practical Guide for Property Owners and Duty Holders

Electric gates are a safe and reliable way to secure homes, estates and commercial sites when they are correctly designed, installed and maintained.

In the UK, automated gates are classed as machinery and are subject to health and safety legislation. This guide explains the legal framework, responsibilities and recognised best practice in clear, practical terms.

Why Electric Gate Safety Matters

Electric gates are engineered systems that move large, heavy structures. Like any mechanical equipment, they must be designed and maintained to operate safely throughout their working life.

UK legislation and industry standards exist to ensure automated gates do not present a risk to people, vehicles or property. Following recognised guidance protects users, reduces risk and demonstrates responsible system management.

Is Electric Gate Safety a Legal Requirement?

Yes. Electric gate safety is a legal requirement in the UK.

Relevant Legislation and Guidance

- The Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008 (as amended for UKCA marking)
- The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992
- British and European standards including EN 12453, EN 12445 and BS EN 13241
- Industry guidance from the DHF and Gate Safe
- Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance

Who Is Responsible for Gate Safety?

Responsibility for gate safety lies with the duty holder. This may include:

- Homeowners and private estate owners
- Managing agents and landlords
- Commercial site operators and businesses
- Schools, councils and public sector organisations

How Electric Gates Are Designed to Be Safe

Electric gate safety begins with mechanical design. Correct hinge selection, bearing systems and controlled movement geometry are used to reduce crushing, shearing and trapping risks by design.

Where possible, compliance is achieved through mechanical design, with safety devices specified as an additional layer of protection following a site-specific risk assessment.

Safety Devices and Protective Measures

- Safety edges that stop the gate if contact is detected
- Presence detection sensors for vehicles and pedestrians
- Force-limited or monitored drives
- Clearly positioned controls and emergency stop devices

Risk Assessments and Safety Reviews

A site-specific risk assessment is a core part of compliant gate design and installation.

- Vehicle and pedestrian movement
- Crushing, shearing and trapping points
- Public access areas
- Traffic flow and site layout

Ongoing Maintenance and Compliance

Electric gate compliance is ongoing, not a one-off event.

Legislation requires powered gates to be maintained in safe working order, inspected periodically and repaired promptly if faults occur. Records of servicing and inspections should be retained.

Force Testing Explained

Force testing measures the forces exerted by an automated gate during movement.

Whether force testing is required depends on gate design, safety systems, site usage and risk level.

Recognised UK Guidance and Standards

- DHF Technical Specification TS 013
- Gate Safe guidance
- HSE guidance on automated gates
- BS EN 13241, EN 12453 and EN 12445

Electric Gate Safety for Homeowners

A compliant system should operate smoothly and predictably, include appropriate safety devices, be maintained regularly and be reviewed periodically to ensure continued safe operation.

How Premier Gate Automation Supports Safety and Compliance

- Site-specific risk assessment and technical specification
- Structural and mechanical gate modifications
- Compliant automation equipment and safety device specification
- Commissioning and documentation
- Planned maintenance and safety inspections
- Compliance advice

Accreditations: Full Member of the DHF • Gate Safe Aware Installer • SafeContractor Accredited • Constructionline Gold Member

Speak to Our Team

If you are planning a new installation or reviewing an existing system, our team can provide clear advice on safety, compliance and long-term maintenance.

Contact: www.premiergate.co.uk