How Advanced can help with lockdowns

What is a lockdown?

A lockdown is an emergency procedure that restricts the movement of people within a building. It is implemented to ensure safety from threats such as intruders, severe weather or public health crises.

Lockdowns can be used in various building types but is typically reserved for those buildings that have a higher occupancy like schools, hospitals or large office buildings

Key terms explained

Lockdown
Securing people inside a building when there is an external threat. This may include locking doors, closing shutters, and moving people away from entrances.

Invacuation
Bringing people inside a building from outdoor areas to protect them from an external threat.

Evacuation
Moving people away from danger to a place of relative safety, using the safest available routes.

Place of relative safety
A location where people are less exposed to harm, such as internal rooms away from entrances or glazing.

Responsible Person
The individual or organisation in control of the premises (e.g. owner, managing agent, tenant or event organiser) who is legally accountable for compliance.

Common applications

For **lockdown/invacuation** procedures, an activation device that differs in colour to the fire call points is recommended. Typically, **blue manual call points (MCPs)** are used to indicate to individuals on site that they should activate the lockdown procedure. This has recently been seen in the UK with the introduction of new Martyn's Law legislation.

Blue flashing beacons are typically used to indicate that a lockdown/invacuation is in progress. This is to visually distinguish that a lockdown/invacuation emergency event is occurring, as opposed to the typical red/white flashing beacon for a fire.

Voice sounders play their alert signal but may also play a dedicated pre-recorded voice message that can alert people to what is going on.

How Advanced can help

The versatile nature of the MxPro 5, Axis AX & Axis EN series of fire alarm panels combined with the ConfigTool allow for easy lockdown programming.

One example involves using one of our panels and a specific manual call point (MCP) on the loop to initiate a lockdown. In this case, the manual call point is configured via the ConfigTool so that it is recognised as an alarm signal (as opposed to the regular fire signal). This allows the panel to initiate a lockdown whenever this MCP is pressed, instead of a fire alarm.

The following guidance covers the application of using a manual call point to activate a lockdown. However, this can be implemented in a multitude of different ways including but not limited to:

- Input Output (I/O) units on the loop
- I/O cards
- On-board inputs
- Panic buttons
- Any device that has an “Input Action” selection

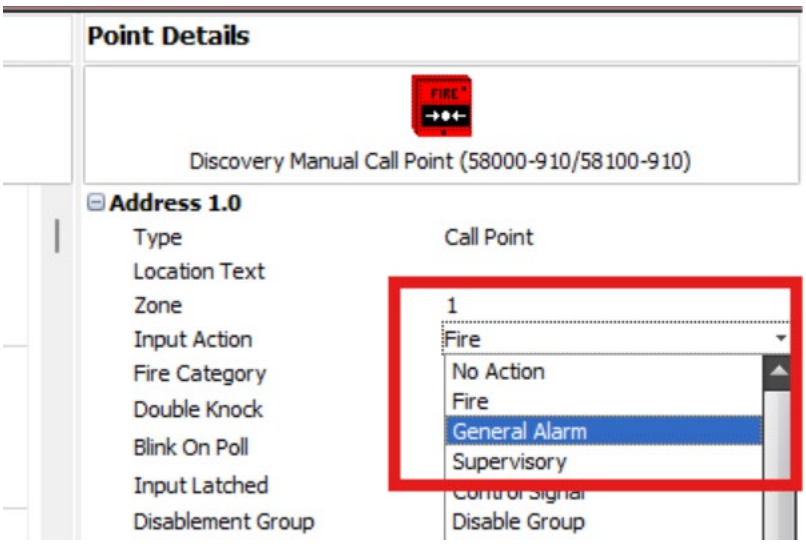
The guidance assumes that you have done the following:

- Taken a download of the panel.
- Moved one or more sounders into an output group.
    - *This output group will be used to activate the sounders with the lockdown signal. This output group may be one you are also using for your fire signal, or it may be one used specifically for lockdown signals.*
    - *In this guidance, Output Group 10 houses our lockdown sounders.*

1. Programming the manual call point (MCP)

First ensure that you have your MCP auto learnt onto your panel (this can be done through the front of the panel) and take a download of your panel. Find the MCP on the ConfigTool and select it to bring up its point details on the right-hand side.

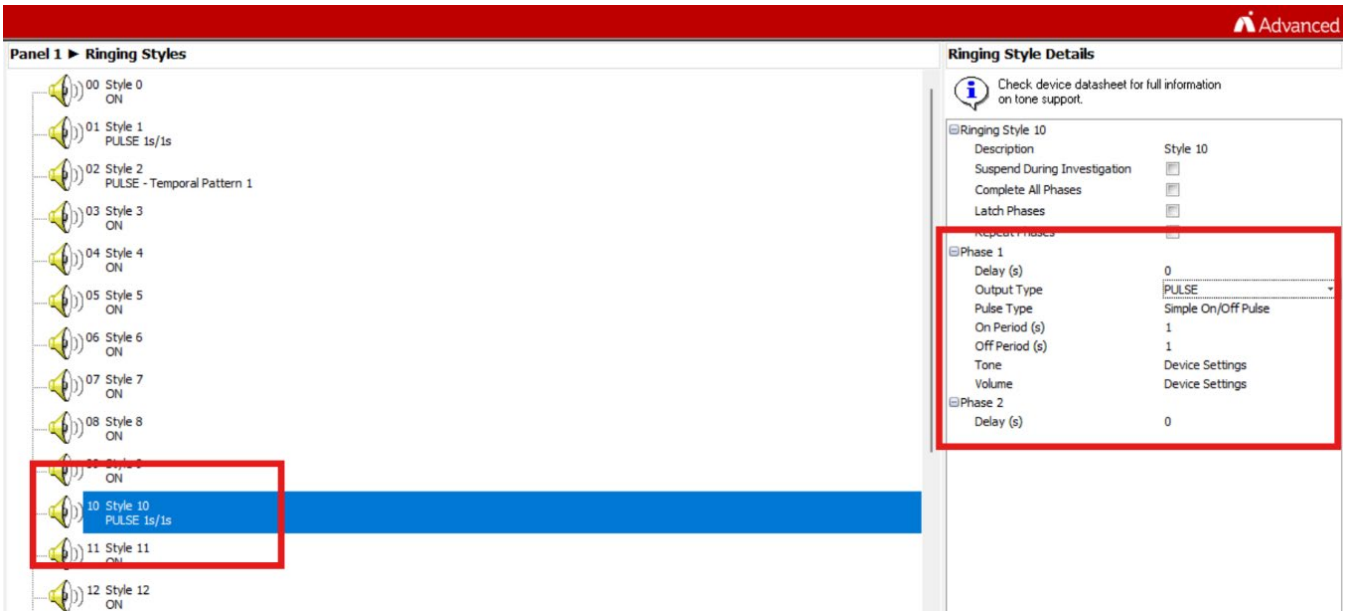
Change its **Input Action** to **General Alarm.**



2. Create your lockdown ringing style

Before moving onto the cause-and-effect programming, a ringing style must be created so that those on site are able to identify a lockdown.

Navigate to your **Ringing Styles** and choose a ringing style that is unused.



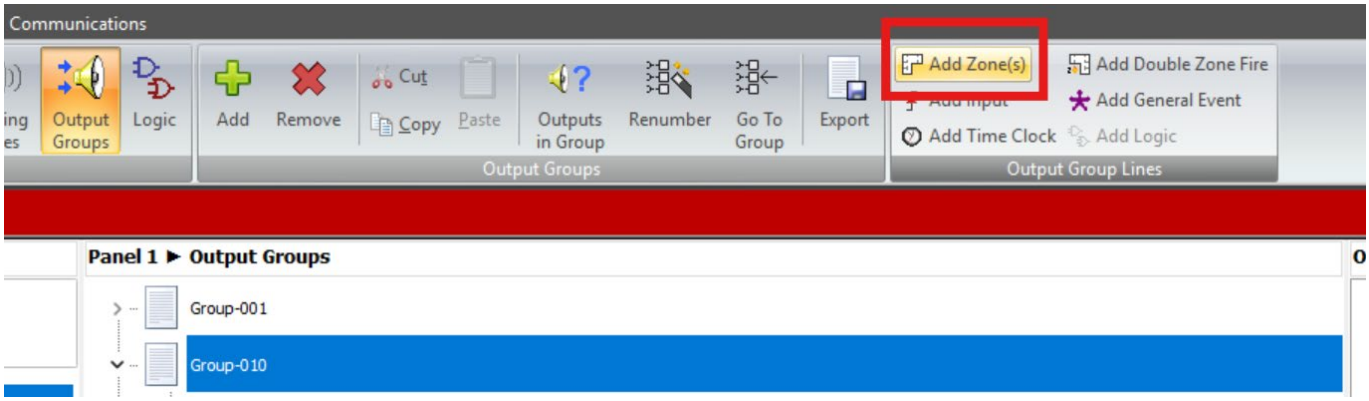
Once selected, on the right side of the program use the options to create a unique ringing style, audibly different to the fire alarm signal.

For example: Your Output Type may be “Pulse” & Pulse Type “Simple On/Off Pulse”.

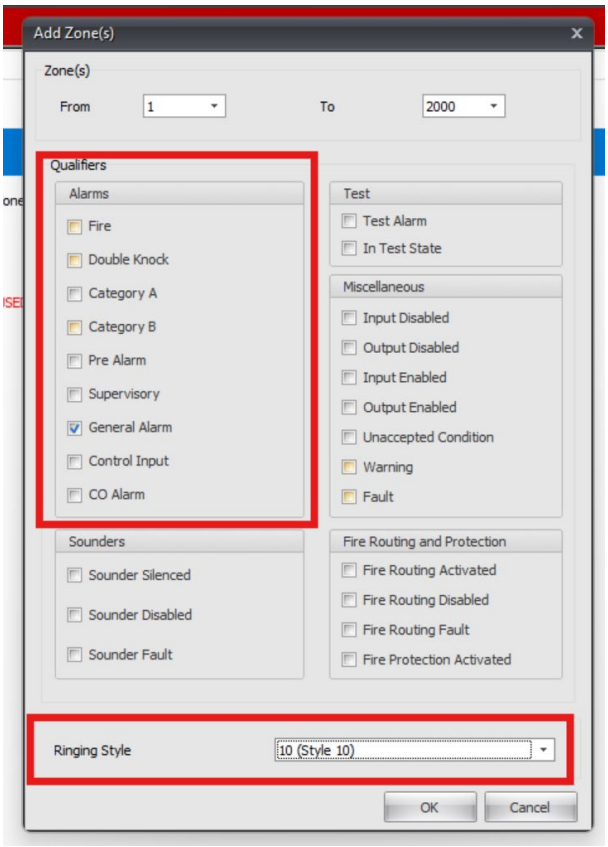
3. Programming your output groups

Choose your output group. The device(s) you want to activate for the lockdown should be assigned to the output group you will use for this section.

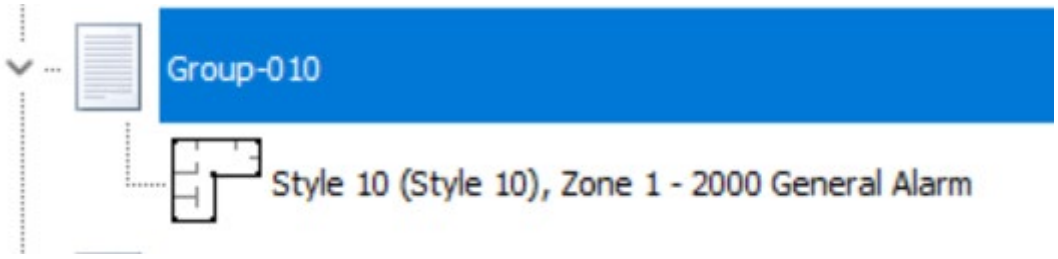
In the example below, you can see that some sounders in Output Group 10 have been selected to activate when a lockdown signal is received.



After selecting the output group, select **Add Zones**, then leave the zone range as 1-2000. In the qualifiers section, untick **Fire** and select **General Alarm**. Finally, at the bottom choose the ringing style that you created previously, in this case Ringing Style 10



This should leave you with an Output Group that looks like the below:



Output Group 10 will now activate whenever there is a General Alarm signal in Zone 1-2000. As our MCP occupies a zone within that range whenever it is triggered, it will activate Output Group 10 with Ringing Style 10 which is the ringing style selected previously.