



Security all the way with Echalon

A recent failure in the UK of a hinged column has prompted some concerns over the security of such types generally.

The incident resulted in a column falling on a pedestrian, whose injuries included a fractured skull. The local authority concerned has mounted a review of all similar columns in the area, and the news has inevitably aroused some concerns in other areas where a similar incident is feared.

The cause of the failure has not been determined at the time of this bulletin, but investigations will likely focus on three possible issues: Vandalism, improper fastening in the raised position, and possible mechanical failure of some sort.

Although the failed column is not an ALC product, we feel concerned to give assurances to the market about the features which differentiate our product, Achalon, and which offer a high level of security, and a history of zero failures.

The ALC Echalon hinged column was designed with safety in mind. Safety for road users, and safety for maintenance operatives. There have been NO incidents of an Echalon column falling unexpectedly.

The ALC hinging mechanism is accessible only by the use of a specialised key, and a 3 three stage process is required to unlock and release the column mechanism prior to lowering. The column movement is counterbalanced by a totally integral mechanism, and will sit in either the raised or the lowered position without any tethering. In conditions where gusting winds may cause concern during maintenance operations, an internal indexing device can be deployed to lock the column in either the raised or the lowered position.

The access system, combined with the release mechanism, gives very high resistance to any attempts at tampering.

Echalon has been available for some years now, and has been used extensively over a wide range of applications. Many are in urban areas, and we have had NO instances of failure from any cause.

You may continue to specify and use Echalon with confidence that it provides a safe and effective solution, delivering security to installers, maintenance operatives, and the general public.

