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(54) **Title:** SECURITY SYSTEM AND METHOD OF DETECTING CONTRABAND ITEMS

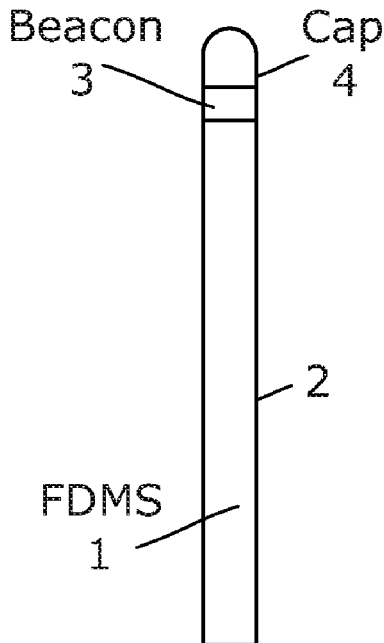


Figure 1

(57) **Abstract:** A security screening apparatus for use in detecting ferromagnetic objects comprises a detector apparatus which comprises a housing that supports at least one magnetic sensor arranged to produce a signal indicative of an ambient magnetic field or gradient over a zone of sensitivity which extends away from the housing, the size of the zone being large enough to contain the whole body of the person, and a signal processing circuit which receives as an input the signal from the magnetic sensor and which, in response to a change in the signal produces an alert signal. A beacon that comprises a light source is able to emit at least two visually distinct colours of light, and a control means controls the light source such that in a first condition in the absence of the alert signal the beacon emits a first colour light and in a second condition corresponding to the presence of the alert signal the beacon emits a second, different, colour of light. The light source is arranged such that the position and/or size and/or shape of the illuminated area of the light source in the first condition is different from the position and/or size and/or shape of the illuminated area of the light source in the second condition.

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SECURITY SYSTEM AND METHOD OF DETECTING CONTRABAND ITEMS

This invention relates to apparatus for detecting ferrous metal items, and in particular
5 but not exclusively to a security systems for use in detecting contraband items. In
particular in some embodiments it relates to apparatus especially suitable for use in
searching for contraband items such as mobile telephones within confined
environments such as prisons.

10 The possession of contraband items in prisons is widely recognised as a major risk to
safety, either of the inmates, the prison staff or to persons outside of the prison. In the
context of this application contraband is defined as any item which the inmate should
not have in their possession and which may be used to cause harm or place a person at
risk. Contraband includes knives, shanks, guns and other weapons, many of which
15 contain metal or magnetic parts. Cell phones are considered to be contraband and to be
dangerous because they can be used by inmates to arrange violent acts inside or outside
of the prison, or used to conduct other criminal activities.

Archway metal detectors, AMDs, are commonly used in prisons. They require
20 permanent installation at locations where the environment is conducive to their
operation. Their main limitation is that they are permanently installed. Also, AMDs
cannot be used next to large amounts of metal which severely limits where they can be
installed within the metal-rich prison environment.

25 Hand held metal detectors, often called hand wands, have widespread use in prisons.
They are inexpensive, highly portable, and can be carried into cell blocks by prison
staff and used to search inmates, bedding, laundry etc. Their main drawback is their
limited range. Because of this they are ineffective for internally carried phones.

30 Ferromagnetic detectors, FMDS, which form the basis of the present invention, work
by a different principle to conventional metal detectors. They do not transmit anything
to evoke a response. Rather they passively detect the magnetic field that naturally
surrounds objects that contain iron or other ferromagnetic elements. Ferromagnetic
detectors are therefore insensitive to non-ferromagnetic materials such as Aluminium,
35 copper, lead etc. Neither can they detect non-metals. FMDS typically comprise one or

more passive magnetic sensors that sense the ambient magnetic field up to a frequency of typically a few Hz. Measured fluctuations of the field are detected using a detection circuit, the output of which activates a warning device.

5 A magnetic sensor may be considered, for the purpose of this description, to have a zone of sensitivity within which it can reliably detect an object although this is not rigorously accurate. In reality magnetic objects have an external magnetic field that decays rapidly in all directions away from the object. The object can be detected when it is close enough to a magnetic sensor that its field exceeds the detection resolution
10 of the sensor. The extent of the detection zone around a magnetic sensor therefore depends upon its resolution and the target's strength. E.g. the detection zone for a car may be within 25 feet of a fluxgate sensor, say, whereas the detection zone for a small needle may be 6 inches. In general, for prison contraband items such as phones and small knives the detection zone is typically 4-5 feet. For this description it is
15 reasonable to think that the term a detection zone refers to the ability of the device to have a functional range of 4-5 feet from each sensor in the FMDS outside of which contraband objects will not be detected, and within which they will.

This invention in at least one aspect is for a novel security screening apparatus for
20 detecting and locating, in particular, cell phones. In particular it addresses significant gaps in the capabilities of archway and hand-held metal detectors for this application. It provides a highly increased effectiveness at cell phone detection over these traditional detection means.

25 According to a first aspect the invention may provide a security screening apparatus for use in detecting ferromagnetic objects, for example contraband items such as mobile phones, comprising:

a detector apparatus which comprises a housing that supports at least one magnetic sensor arranged to produce a signal indicative of an ambient magnetic field or gradient
30 over a zone of sensitivity which extends away from the housing, the size of the zone being large enough to contain the whole body of the person, and a signal processing circuit which receives as an input the signal from the magnetic sensor and which, in response to a change in the signal produces an alert signal; a beacon that comprises a light source that in use is able to emit at least two visually distinct colours of light,
35 and a control means which controls the light source such that in a first condition in the

absence of the alert signal the beacon emits a first colour light and in a second condition corresponding to the presence of the alert signal the beacon emits a second, different, colour of light, and characterised in that the light source is arranged such that the position and/or size and/or shape of the illuminated area of the light source in the first condition is different from the position and/or size and or shape of the illuminated area of the light source in the second condition.

The beacon may be arranged so that the centre of illumination may shift as the colour changes from the first condition to the second and vice versa.

The beacon may be arranged so that the boundary of the area of illumination may shift as the colour changes from the first condition to the second and vice versa.

By the term perceived centre of illumination of the light we mean the centre point from which a person viewing the beacon from a distance will perceive the light to be emitted from is different for each of the first and second conditions. Thus, not only will the light emitted change colour it will be perceived to have moved as it changes from one condition, one colour, to the other.

By change in area, we mean that the user sees a larger light source when in one condition compared with the other, and so perceives the boundary to move.

Similarly, when the shape changes the boundaries of at least part of the shape will be perceived to have moved.

The applicant has appreciated that when an alert beacon is located in a viewer's peripheral vision, the shift of the position of the light is easily noticed, whereas a change in colour alone may not be as easily noticed. This takes advantage of a person's sensitivity to movement of objects in the peripheral vision. Combining this shift with a change in colour has been found to significantly increase the ease of noticing an alert and provide a screening apparatus which can be located in the area of a person's peripheral vision.

The warning beacon may be arranged so that a person can view the light that is emitted in the first condition and the light that is emitted in the second condition over

a 360 angle of visibility in a horizontal plane. By this we mean that they can tell which colour light is being emitted wherever they are viewing from, to the front, side or back.

- 5 The beacon may change between two or more visual states, for example between two or more different colours.

It is most preferred that the beacon is in the first condition corresponding to no alert at all times when it is switched on, to show that it is ready to detect an object. It may
10 emit green light in this condition.

The light source may comprise one or more single colour, or one or more bicolour, or one or more tricolour LEDs, or a mix of single, bicolour and tricolour LEDs.

- 15 The apparatus may include a drive circuit that receives the alert signal and produces an appropriate drive signal for the light source. This may be located at the beacon or remote from the beacon.

The beacon most preferably comprises two sets of single colour LEDs, each set of a
20 different colour to the other set, that are spread in an array such that the 'centre of illumination' for each colour is at a different location when the LEDs of a set are illuminated.

The two colours may comprise green hue and a red hue. A third colour for a third
25 condition may comprise an amber hue.

There may be four or six or more red lights arranged, for example, in an array such as a 2 x 2 by 3 x 2 regular grid pattern. Similarly there may be four or six or more green
30 lights, also arranged in a regular grid pattern and offset from the red lights.

In an alternative to separate red and green lights, the beacon may include one or more bicolour or tricolour lights. The drive circuit may vary the colour output by each light as required. To obtain the perception of movement, one or more of these lights may be
35 illuminated in the first condition and not illuminated in the second condition.

The amount of movement may be limited to at most 20-30mm, and may be less, perhaps as low as 2-3mm of perceived movement.

5 In a typical use of the screening apparatus during screening a line of people, such as prison inmates, the officers conducting the operation need to visually observe three things. They need to watch the line of people waiting to be screened to observe any unusual or disorderly behaviour. They need to observe the person who is being screened to ensure they are not avoiding the system or acting unusually to avoid full screening. Thirdly they need to watch the beacon to see the response of the lights. It is
10 not always convenient to have an audible alert for some types of operation so the visual indicator is essential.

Because the beacon can be monitored in the peripheral vision, an officer can look at other things yet register changes in the alert state.

15

According to a second aspect the invention may therefore comprise a security screening installation comprising a screening zone within which a person or object is to be screened and a security screening apparatus according to the first aspect in which the detector apparatus is offset from the screening zone such that the zone of
20 detection covers the screening zone and an operating zone in which a person who is operating the device is positioned so that when they are viewing the screening zone they have the beacon of the detector apparatus in their peripheral vision.

The operating zone may be located on a first side of the screening zone and people
25 and objects to be screened may be located on an opposing side of the screening zone and moving through the screening zone towards the operating zone, the beacon of the detector apparatus being located in a region of the peripheral vision of a person located in the operating zone viewing a person moving towards them through the screening zone.

30

The screening zone may be located between opposing side walls of a corridor or room or between two spaced apart barriers, the detector apparatus being located on one of the walls or barriers.

Whilst in the above arrangement it is beneficial to provide a maximum visibility of a warning to a person who is carrying out a screening operation, there are some instances in which it is beneficial for the alert to be covert.

5 According to a third aspect the invention provides a security screening system comprising:

a detector apparatus which comprises at least one magnetic sensor arranged to produce a signal indicative of an ambient magnetic field or gradient over a zone of sensitivity around the sensor, the zone being large enough to contain the whole body of the
10 person, and a signal processing circuit which receives as an input the signal from the magnetic sensor and which, in response to a change in the signal produces an alert signal;

characterised in that the detector apparatus includes a transmitter that transmits a non-visible and non-audible warning signal when the alert signal is produced, and further
15 comprising:

a remote warning device that is physically separate from the detector apparatus and comprises a receiver that is responsive to the transmitted warning signal issued by the detector module and generates a remote alert signal when the warning signal is received, whereby the alert signal can be associated with a person or object in the
20 detection zone of the apparatus.

The detector apparatus may include a beacon that is switchable between an inactive state in which the beacon does not respond to the alert signal and an active state in which the beacon responds by generating an audible, visible or audio/visual warning
25 signal. The beacon may be fixed to the detector apparatus and easily visible.

In a preferred arrangement the beacon may be switched to the inactive state whilst the remote warning device is active, so that a person observing the security screening system (listening and/or watching the system) is fooled into thinking that it is not
30 operating or has not detected anything.

The beacon may have two states, one to indicate that nothing has been detected, and the other to indicate that something has been detected. When active it may indicate nothing has been detected even if it has, leaving the remote device to flag up a
35 detection of an object.

The transmitted signal may comprise an electromagnetic or ultrasonic or infra-red signal. In each case it will be inaudible and invisible to an observer. It may comprise a signal that is not detectable by the receiver of a mobile phone, including any
5 Bluetooth detector that may be located in a mobile phone. This ensures that a person cannot “listen in” to the signal using a contraband mobile phone.

The transmission may have a relatively short range so that it will alert a nearby guard who is carrying or wearing the remote device, but cannot be detected. In this case it is
10 important for the person with the remote device to be sure they are within the limited range. The range of transmission may be limited to at most 2 metres, or 3 meter or perhaps 4 metres.

The remote alert device may be a transducer that vibrates when the alert signal is
15 generated to generate a haptic signal.

In this case the receiver and the transducer of the remote warning device may be located within or otherwise supported by a housing that is small enough to be concealed in an adult hand, or small enough to be hidden in a pocket of an item of
20 clothing or hung around a neck on a chain or worn on a band such as a wrist or ankle band.

This means that in a least one embodiment the housing has a maximum of 10cm in any dimension (width, height, depth) or a maximum of 5cm in any dimension.
25

Alternatively, the transmission may be long range to alert a distant guard such as one in a non-local control room. In this case, the remote device need not be small and portable as it need not be hidden about a person, e.g. the guard.

30 In this case system may comprise a plurality of a detector apparatus, each of which comprises at least one magnetic sensor arranged to produce a signal indicative of an ambient magnetic field or gradient over a zone of sensitivity around the sensor, the zone being large enough to contain the whole body of the person, and a signal processing circuit which receives as an input the signal from the magnetic sensor and
35 which, in response to a change in the signal produces an alert signal;

And in which each detector apparatus includes a transmitter that transmits a non-visible and non-audible warning signal when the alert signal is produced, and further comprising:

at least one camera that captures images of the area including the detector apparatus or
5 a region adjacent the apparatus in which a person approaching, within or having passed through the zone of sensitivity may be located,

At least one display monitor on which the images captured by the camera can be displayed, and

A controller that is responsive to the remote alert signal to cause the image from the
10 camera associated with the detector apparatus that has generated the alert to be displayed on the monitor.

The system may include a camera for each detector apparatus, each camera capturing an image of a region adjacent the apparatus in which a person approaching, within or
15 having passed through the zone of sensitivity may be located. Thus, if an alarm is triggered because a person is carrying a contraband item they will visible in the camera image.

The monitor may only display images from apparatus that have issued an alert signal,
20 with others not displayed.

Displaying images on a monitor which may be located in a control room allows an operator to identify a person who has triggered an alert from a remote location, even where there are multiple detector apparatus in use at any given time.

25

The camera may comprise a video camera and the camera and monitor may form part of closed circuit television security system.

There may be a single monitor on which images are displayed. For instance, an image
30 from each camera may be displayed as part of a repeating sequence of images from each camera.

Alternatively, there may be one monitor for each detector apparatus, so that images from the camera from each detector apparatus are displayed simultaneously on the
35 monitors. When an alert signal is received an indicator may be presented in or

alongside the image- for instance a red border, or a flashing icon. Alternatively an audible alert may be issued to tell the operator which monitor to view.

5 The remote warning device may be physically separate from the detector apparatus and comprises a receiver that is responsive to the transmitted warning signal issued by the detector module and generates a remote alert signal when the warning signal is received, whereby the alert signal can be associated with a person or object in the detection zone of the apparatus.

10 In one arrangement, where at least one camera and monitor is provided, it may be convenient if the means for the detection apparatus to transmit an alert signal to the control room was via the CCTV system, i.e. across the network that transmits the camera information to the monitor.

15 Thus, the alert signal that is transmitted may be encoded in the picture or audio signal sent from the camera to the monitor.

For example, some solid state CCTV cameras have sensitivity to the near infra-red. The detector apparatus may include a visual warning beacon that may include infrared
20 LEDs to be lit if there is a detection rather than the visible LEDs. These would be visible on the CCTV display screen but not to the people being screened.

Alternatively, the audible alert of the detection apparatus may be near-ultrasonic, i.e. 20-22 kHz, which is just beyond the maximum hearing range for a human. Associated
25 with each detector apparatus may be a microphone that can hear such an alert signal. CCTV cameras, for example, typically include microphones that can usually receive up to 22 kHz, so the alert will be relayed through the audio channel of the CCTV to the control room.

30 A controller may be provided in the control room to receive and lower the audible frequency and re-broadcast as an audible signal, or use this as a trigger to produce another form of remote alert as described above, because the signal would be beyond the hearing range of the person monitoring.

The apparatus may include more than one remote warning device, each comprising a housing that houses a receiver that is responsive to the warning signal issued by the detector module and generates a remote alert signal when the warning signal is received, and a transducer that produces a tactile signal in response to the remote alert
5 signal.

Where there are a plurality of receivers several guards may be covertly alerted simultaneously. Alternatively the apparatus may include a means on indicating the alert in multiple control rooms, or a combination of any of these means to provide
10 covert alerting to multiple destinations.

Whilst ferromagnetic screening apparatus work very well in detecting contraband, problems can sometimes arise if they are to be used in an environment where there are lots of ferromagnetic objects that might cause false alarms. A typical example would
15 be road vehicles, trains and elevators which are a strong magnetic source. To allow effective screening it may be desirable to use a detector apparatus in a location near to such a source. The movement of the objects causes problems as it prevents them from being effectively compensated for by the sensor output because they do not represent a constant level of background noise.

20

In another aspect, the applicant proposes a system which may help ameliorate the possible problems with the use of a ferromagnetic detector apparatus for screening in areas where there a strongly magnetic moving background objects which could cause false alarms.

25

According to a still further aspect the invention provides a security screening installation system comprising:

A first detector apparatus which comprises a first elongate housing that supports at least one magnetic sensor arranged to produce a signal indicative of an ambient
30 magnetic field or gradient over a first zone of sensitivity around the sensor, and a signal processing circuit which receives as an input the signal from the magnetic sensor and which, in response to a change in the signal produces a first alert signal;

A second detector apparatus which includes a second elongate housing that supports at least one magnetic sensor arranged to produce a signal indicative of an ambient
35 magnetic field or gradient over a second zone of sensitivity around the sensor, and a

signal processing circuit which receives as an input the signal from the magnetic sensor and which, in response to a change in the signal produces a second alert signal; Whereby in use the first and second detector apparatus are located at predetermined spaced locations such that an object cannot pass between them without being detected
5 in the zone of sensitivity of at least one of the two detectors.

By providing two adjacent detector apparatus, each of which is able to operate independent of the other, and locating them at spaced locations there is a defined region between them through which a person or object must pass for screening.
10 Forcing the person or object to pass through a clearly defined region makes it much harder to avoid detection.

The security screening installation system may include positioning means for setting the relative spaced locations of the two detector apparatus at the correct distance.

15

The positioning means may comprise a connecting beam which connects the two housings of the detector apparatus together at the correct predetermined spaced locations.

20 The connecting beam may fix the housings at a set distance apart so as to define a passage between the housings through which a person may pass, the spacing between the housings being chosen to ensure that the first and second zones meet or overlap each other between the housings.

25 The connecting beam may connect the two housings at a point that is spaced above the ground to form an archway bounded on the sides by the detector housings and at the top by the cross beam.

Alternatively, the positioning means may comprise a template onto which the detector
30 apparatus are placed. It may comprise an instruction document stating what distance should be used. This could be in the form of a printed document or may be printed or otherwise marked on one or both of the detector apparatus.

The positioning means may include a position sensor which measures the spacing
35 between the detector apparatus, and provides an audible or visual indication that the

correct spacing has been set. For instance this may be a range finder that may be built into one of the detector apparatus or otherwise secured to it, the range finder determining the distance to the other detector apparatus.

- 5 The sensitivity of each magnetic sensor, which determines the size of the screening zone, may be chosen such that an object that has a lowest magnetic field strength that the screening installation is to detect will be detected by the first detector apparatus when it is closer to the housing of that apparatus than to the housing of the second detector apparatus or exactly halfway between the detector apparatus, but will not be
10 detected by the first detector apparatus if it is closer to the other detector apparatus.

Essentially, when configuring two detector apparatus as a single portal, the sensitivity of each detector apparatus can be reduced in order to cover half of the portal width each, thus achieving the same efficacy as a single detector would need to detect over
15 the same area. Because the detection zones are halved, the effect of external interference from large distant ferromagnetic objects are also halved.

Each detector apparatus may be provided with a means for adjusting the sensitivity of the detector apparatus and hence the size of the detection zone. The means may enable
20 the sensitivity to pre-set at a value that is matched to the length of the cross beam. For instance, it may include a button or switch that sets the sensitivity at the required value.

The cross beam may carry information telling an operator what setting to use for that
25 beam. For instance, a longer beam may need a higher sensitivity for each detector apparatus.

Each of the detector apparatus may function independently as a stand-alone screening apparatus that produces a respective alert when an object passes. Each may therefore
30 include its own signal processing circuit and its own visible or audible alarm that is activated by the alarm signal. Each may have its own housing that is separate from the housing of the other.

Unlike an archway metal detector, which has a transmit side and a receive side and
35 can only be used as an archway, the present invention allows a flexible and high value

design that can be used as an archway or as two independent ferromagnetic detectors. The cross beam may therefore be removable from one or both detector apparatus, or may be separable into two parts with one part secured to each detector apparatus, for when independent use is required.

5

Each detector apparatus may be powered independently of the other, for instance by batteries that may form part of the apparatus or by connection to a supply of mains electrical power, typically 110 v or 230 volts.

10 In a modification, the two detector apparatus need not be independent. For example, each housing may support a magnetic sensor by a common signal processing circuit may be used. The alert signal associated with each magnetic sensor may be passed to a common visible or audible alarm.

15 The detection zones of each device may overlap by an amount although for minimising sensitivity the zone of each device may extend across the gap between housings but not sufficiently far that the zone encompasses the other housing.

In another aspect the invention provides a kit of parts for use in constructing a security screening installation of the above aspect, the kit comprising a conversion
20 part that includes a connecting beam, the conversion part securing two

The cross beam may be secured at the top of the two housings or at the bottom as a threshold. It may have a fixing at one end for fixing to a housing of a first detector
25 apparatus and a fixing at the other end for fixing to a second detector apparatus.

The cross beam may be flexible or rigid, but is preferably inextensible to set the correct spacing between the two detector apparatuses.

30 The kit may include a pair of bases that support the elongate housings in an upright position. The pair of bases may be interconnected, or separate.

The connecting beam or cross piece may have a length of between 30cm and 100cm, but may be longer.

35

Whilst the archway arrangement has advantages in reducing the effect of unwanted background noise, it also has the advantage that anyone passing through the archway will be effectively screened. A disadvantage of the use of hand wands or single pole FMDS is that a person may pass by whilst just being outside of the detection zone, and therefore able to move with a contraband item undetected. When there are lots of people being screened it may be hard for an operator to be sure a person has passed by the apparatus in the zone of sensitivity or just outside of this. A person trying to pass undetected would attempt to be as close as possible, yet outside of range, so as to trick the operator into thinking they passed through the zone.

10

Increasing the sensitivity of the device would help by making the zone larger, but as explained in the context of the archway this is not practical in many instances as it would lead to lots of false alarms due to background objects, or limit areas in which screening can take place. A barrier may be used to ensure a person must pass by within the detection range, such as a wall or movable screen, but this is not always practical.

15

Therefore according to a further aspect the invention provides a security screening installation system comprising:

20

a detector apparatus which comprises at least one magnetic sensor arranged to produce a signal indicative of an ambient magnetic field or gradient over a zone of sensitivity around the sensor, the zone being large enough to contain the whole body of the person, and a signal processing circuit which receives as an input the signal from the magnetic sensor and which, in response to a change in the signal produces an alert signal; and which further includes a range determining means arranged to detect when an object is located in a defined range of distances bounded by a defined minimum distance from the magnetic sensor and a defined maximum distance from the magnetic sensor,

25

and a processing means which produces a warning signal indicative that a person may be trying to avoid detection of an object if the range determining means indicates that an object has been detected that is within the defined range.

30

The minimum distance of the range may correspond to the edge of the zone of sensitivity such that an object that is located within the zone of sensitivity does not generate a warning signal as it is outside of the range.

35

By providing an apparatus with an additional range determining sensor, the output of which is used to provide a warning signal if reliable ferromagnetic screening in the zone of sensitivity is being avoided by people or objects passing too far away from it, an increased ease of use can be obtained. A person avoiding detection can be identified and made to go past again at a closer distance, or taken aside for closer checking.

It should be appreciated that a person or object may be carrying a ferromagnetic object on the side furthest from the detection apparatus. It is important that the ferromagnetic object passes within the zone of ferromagnetic detection or it may not be reliably detected. The range detection means will not be specific to ferromagnetic objects and will generally record the distance between the nearest point of the person or object and the sensor apparatus. The minimum distance of the range within which a warning signal is generated should therefore correspond to a distance whereby if the closest point of the person or object passes within that distance then it is expected the whole of the person or object is within the zone of reliable ferromagnetic detection.

The maximum of the distance of the range within which a warning signal is generated may be any distance deemed to be outside of which screening is not expected to occur. For convenience this may be close to the zone of reliable ferromagnetic detection or slightly less.

The range determining means may comprise an optical range sensor that emits and receives light in the visible or infra-red spectrum.

Alternatively, or additionally, the range determining means may comprise an ultrasonic or radar based range finder.

The range determining means may produce a variable output signal that has a value dependent on the range, the boundaries of the range being set by detecting when the value is within a defined range of values.

To determine when an object is in range, the output signal may be fed into a first comparator and compared with a first reference signal, and to a second comparator

and compared with a second, different, reference signal, the two outputs of the comparators being input to an exclusive OR gate, the output of which defines the warning signal. As an alternative, the output of one comparator may be inverted and the two comparator outputs passed through an AND gate. Of course, the skilled person will appreciate that other logic circuits can be used to the same end.

The two outputs from the comparators may also be fed into a sequence filter. This filter is a refinement to prevent the momentary activation of the alert as the person or object enters the zone maximum and before they pass the zone minimum. By observing the sequence of events from the two comparators this is straightforward to achieve.

The alert signal and the warning signal may therefore be input to a processing means which outputs an alarm signal that is used to control or drive an audible or visible or haptic alarm (or a combination of two or more of those things) when certain logical conditions are met.

The processing of the signals may be performed in the analogue or digital domain, and as such the warning signal, alarm signal and any output signals or intermediate signals formed by the processing means may be analogue or digital.

The conditions for an alarm signal to be generated may be as set out in the following table:

Input conditions				Output states	
R>R1	R1>R>R2	R2>R	Magnetic detected	Avoidance detected alert	Main Alert
✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓

25

Where R is the distance measured by the range finder;
 R1 is the maximum distance of the range; typically near the edge of the zone of reliable ferromagnetic sensitivity or less i.e.40-100 cm; and

R2 is the minimum distance of the range corresponding typically to the maximum range where a person or object is expected to be reliably screened (Typically 10-25cm).

- 5 The alarm signal that is used to inform an operator that a magnetic object has been detected or a person is trying to avoid detection alerting an operator to the presence of a magnetic object, may comprise an audible or visible or haptic (or combination of two or more things) that may be issued when the logic indicates that the object has passed by outside of the zone of sensitivity but within the range of the additional
10 sensor, which will indicate a possible attempt to avoid detection.

The output of the comparator that indicates that an object is located closer than the minimum range may be combined with the alert signal using an AND gate so that alarm signals indicating the presence of a ferromagnetic object are only issued if the
15 object is in the zone of sensitivity. This can be used to greatly reduce false alarms.

There will now be described by way of example only, several embodiments that fall within the scope of one or more of the aspects of the present invention, with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings of which:

20

Figure 1 is a simple front view of a detector apparatus that may form a part of an embodiment of a security screening apparatus according to the present invention;

Figure 2 is a view of one side of the beacon of Figure 2, the other side being identical or a mirror image;
25

Figure 3 is a view from the front of the beacon of the detector apparatus of Figure 1 with the clear plastic cover removed the other side being identical or a mirror image;

Figure 4 is a circuit diagram for the detector apparatus of the embodiment of Figure
30 1.

Figure 5 shows a remote warning device that can be used with a detector apparatus to provide a covert alarm signal when a ferromagnetic object has been detected.

Figure 6 shows the apparatus with a long range covert alarm signal and a CCTV
35 system screening people covertly.

Figure 7 shows the apparatus with a covert alarm signal operating via a CCTV system or a remote control room.

- 5 **Figure 8** is a front view of a detector apparatus of Figure 1 used during a screening operation;

Figure 9 is a front view of a pair of detector apparatus connected by a cross beam to form an embodiment of a screening apparatus of another aspect of the invention

10

Figure 10 is a circuit diagram for an alternative embodiment of a screening apparatus according to the invention that includes a range detector to help identify attempts to avoid detection; and

- 15 **Figure 11** is a circuit diagram for another alternative embodiment of a screening apparatus according to the invention that includes a range detector to help identify attempts to avoid detection;

Figure 1 shows a representative detector apparatus 1 that may be used to carry out a
20 method, or form part of a security screening apparatus, of the present invention.
Figure 4 shows the main functional parts detector apparatus in a block diagram.

The detector apparatus 1 comprise an elongate pole shaped housing 2 made of
aluminium or other non-ferrous material, about 6 feet (180cm) tall and 10cm wide,
25 which has a base at one end and is capped at the other end 4 with a beacon 3 that is
surrounded with a transparent cover to allow the light out. The beacon 3 comprises a
set of light emitting diodes 5 which form a visible alarm or beacon as shown in
Figures 2 and 3. The diodes are red, amber and green and can be illuminated
separately so as to provide a red, amber or green glow when in a first, second or third
30 condition. The housing 2 contains all of the sensors and electronic circuitry needed to
operate the device and a battery (not shown). The battery provides power to the circuit
enabling the apparatus to be self-powered and used away from a mains power source
although the device could be mains powered.

The apparatus is light enough to be carried around easily, and the pole containing the sensors and circuitry can be stored safely in a two part protective case (also not shown). A weighted base, as shown in Figure 8 may be provided which can be used to hold the pole in an upright position. The pole 2 is ruggedized to protect the circuitry if
5 it is handled roughly or knocked over.

Internally, as shown in Figure 4, the detector apparatus 1 comprises an electronic circuit powered by the battery 30, or mains power. A magnetic sensor 31 is provided, such as a fluxgate sensor or a magneto-resistive sensor, a magneto-impedance sensor,
10 a Hall Effect sensor, or a galvanic coil sensor, which produces an output signal dependent on the ambient magnetic field at the sensor. In fact, two or more sensors can be used if desired, the increased number of sensors enabling a defined zone of sensitivity to be established. Where only one sensor is provided the zone will extend all around the sensor and be limited only by the intrinsic sensitivity of the sensor, or a
15 lesser sensitivity if desired. The zone of detection for cell phones, blades and other magnetic contraband extends on all sides of the apparatus and is large enough to accommodate the whole of an inmate, perhaps extending for 1 metre from the pole.

When used the apparatus generally remains still. The magnetic sensor 31 will register
20 a largely unchanging magnetic field due to the earth. This constitutes a large offset on the output of the sensor. This constant offset can be removed using a high pass filter. The sensor will also likely measure regular changes in the magnetic field associated with the power supply for electrical equipment located near the detector apparatus which will cause the output to vary at the supply frequency and its harmonics. This
25 can also be filtered out using a low pass filter. The filters collectively constitute a band-pass filter 32 to perform these functions.

It is known that it takes between 0.3seconds and 3 seconds, typically, for a person to pass through a doorway. The reciprocal of these times defines the frequencies of
30 interest in the output of the sensor 31, i.e. 0.3 to 3Hz.

If a ferromagnetic object carried, or pulled or pushed, by a person passes close to the sensor 31 through the zone of sensitivity, the ambient magnetic field will be altered causing a change in the output of the magnetic sensor 31. That change will pass
35 through the filter 32 and be amplified by an amplifier 33 to form an alert signal. In

order to trigger an alarm the alert signal size is compared with user-settable thresholds. Because the alert signal may be positive or negative, the threshold detector consists of a rectification stage 34 followed by comparators 35a and 35b that has circuits 36a and 36b to provide threshold voltages. Two thresholds, as shown, are
5 necessary for a three colour beacon, for example, one threshold defines the green-amber transition and a higher one defines the amber-red transition. It will be appreciated that only one comparator and threshold are necessary for a two colour beacon. An optional latch 37 may be provided which holds the value of the signal output from a comparator for a predetermined period- perhaps up to 1 second.

10

The output of the comparators 35a and 35b may be arranged to have logic level zero for the state where the alert signal does not exceed the threshold, and level 'one' for the state when the alert signal has exceeded the threshold. Once an object has passed out of range of the sensor 31 the logic levels return to zero once the signal level has
15 dropped below the thresholds. In practice, it may be preferable that the alert continues for an elapsed time defined by a reset delay 38 and a latch 37 such as a flip-flop that maintains the output or the alert for a fixed time.

20

The latched alert signal and the output of comparator 35b may be used to determine the condition of the beacon 3 by the beacon control 39. One convenient arrangement is when there is no signal detected the inputs to 39 are both zero and this results in a green light (first condition) at beacon 3. When input A is high (one) and B is zero due to the lower threshold 36b being exceeded, the beacon emits amber light (second condition). When both A and B are high (one) the beacon emits red light (third
25 condition). This way an intuitive traffic light indication is created. It has been found to be beneficial, although not essential, that both a visual 3 and audible alarm 40 are provided. This colour change, and audible alarm, provides an indication of whether contraband is present. It may be beneficial, according to one aspect of this invention that a transmitter 41 is also activated. The latch 37, audible alert 40 and transmitter 41
30 may alternatively be connected to either of the comparator outputs, 35a or 35b in any combination. Also, any of the alert means (visual, audible or covert transmitter) may be activated or deactivated in any combination. For example, in a further aspect of this invention the visible colour and audible alerts may be deactivated but infrared LEDs in the beacon 3 or ultrasonic sounds from the audible alert 40 may be activated.

Optionally other types of display may be used, for example a signal magnitude indicator 43.

The Beacon is shown in more detail in Figures 2 and 3 of the drawings. It comprises a supporting substrate, such as a printed circuit board, onto each side of which is mounted an array of light emitting diodes, each of a single colour. Providing light emitting diodes (leds) on each side enables a full 360 degree visibility of the light to be achieved provided that the diodes on both sides are illuminated at the same time.

The diodes in this example comprises six red leds in a 3 by 2 grid, six amber leds in a 3 by 2 grid with each one offset vertically from the six red leds, and four green leds arranged in a 2 by 2 grid centred between the outermost red and amber leds. The leds are supported by a circuit board 7. All green, or all amber or all red are illuminated at any one time, red being used for issuing a warning or alarm as an object is detected, and the green when there is no object detected. Amber is issued is a low signal that might be an object is detected.

When each colour is lit up, the centre of illumination of the beacon and the shape of the light overall is different to that of the other colours. This gives the perception of movement of the source of the light which has been found to support better visibility in the peripheral vision. The retina of the human eye consists of two types of cells, commonly known as rods and cones. Cones are concentrated around the fovea, and that is where light falls when we are looking directly at something. Cones are sensitive to colour. Rods are more abundant in the periphery of the retina, which is where the light falls from objects that are not in the direct line of sight. Rods are not sensitive to colour, but are highly sensitive to movement and low intensity light. Colour changing by itself is therefore not easily detected by the eye unless it is looking in the general direction of the beacon.

The beacon of the embodiment of Figures 2 and 3 gives the appearance of movement as well as changes in colour. The beacon is made from single colour LEDs that are spread in an array such that the 'centre of illumination' for each colour is at a different location.

When the lights of the beacon change colour there is a small associated movement in their position due to the use of a clear plastic surround (rather than a diffuser as has been used in the prior art which disguises the location of each individual LED to give a uniform glow.

5

There are many arrangements of LEDs by which this may be achieved, and Figures 2 and 3 show just one example to illustrate two strategies. Here the beacon is always green, amber or red. When moving between green and amber there is an expansion of the lit area and a small shift downwards in the centre of illumination. Green LEDs are generally brighter than amber or red so there are fewer of them. When going from
10 amber to red, the centre of illumination moves upwards. Although these movements are relatively small, just a few millimetres, it is enough to be clearly visible in the peripheral vision. This effect may be accentuated by invoking flashing or sequence control of the individual leds.

15

The beacon 3 and audible alert 40 make the screening process highly overt, whereas in some operational scenarios it may be preferable to screen in a covert manner. To achieve this, the beacon 3 and audible alert 40 must be switched off or used in a
20 manner where they are not perceivable to the people being screened. One way to achieve this is to screen from behind a wall. It is unusual for any wall to hinder the detection capability of an FMDS. In order for the operator to be alerted a transmission means 41 is required using a communications means, such as a radio signal, ultrasonic signal or optical signal. This list should not be considered to be an exhaustive list and
25 is merely a list of examples. A receiver is needed that may produce an audible or visible alarm, or perhaps provide a haptic signal to discretely alert and operator. In some arrangements this remote alarm unit could be provided instead of an alarm on the housing.

30 In the example of Figure 5 the apparatus 1 is behind a wall 51 and transmitter 41 relays the alert signal to a small discrete haptic unit 50 that contains a receiver 52, a vibrator 53 and a battery 54. The transmission means must be capable of penetrating walls and not discernible by non-operators. This excludes the use of systems like Bluetooth where signals can be intercepted on contraband phones and earpieces are
35 easily visible.

Alternatively the covert screening may be monitored from a remote control room as shown in Figure 6. Here the FMDS 1 is behind a wall and the wall is monitored by a CCTV camera 61. The transmitter 41 is long range and its signal 60 is directly received in the control room 62 where an audible or visual alert (not shown) may be given to the controller. The controller is also viewing the scene from the CCTV on a regular monitor. When alerted to the presence of a ferromagnetic object, the operator can observe or record (automatically or otherwise) the image of the person or object that caused the alert. The control room may monitor several other systems 63 simultaneously.

A variation of this is shown in Figure 7 where the CCTV camera 70 can receive infrared or ultrasonic emissions 71 from the FMDS 1 via the beacon 3 or audible alert 40. This alleviates the need for a separate transmitter 41. The CCTV relays the alert signal in its image in the case of infrared or audible in the case of ultrasonic. The operator in the control room will see the infrared beacon directly on the image in the CCTV monitor. Alternatively the ultrasonic alert may be heard if an ultrasonic detector is employed. Again, multiple systems 63 may be monitored simultaneously. It should be noted that if an ultrasonic alert signal is given then search canines may be trained to respond.

Figure 9 shows an alternative arrangement of a security screening apparatus 101 in which two detector apparatus 102,103 such as those of Figures 1 to 3, each capable of independently detecting an object, are used together. In particular, each detector apparatus comprises a pole shaped housing and is supported at a lower end in a heavy base 105,106. The two housings are spaced about 1 metres apart, and are connected at the top by a cross beam 104. The cross beam 104 serves two functions. Firstly it helps support the top of the two housings to form a defined archway through which an inmate must pass for screening. Secondly, it defines the spacing between the two housings in a precise manner, ensuring that optimum performance of the detectors is achieved.

By setting the housings a defined distance apart, it is possible to minimise the sensitivity setting for each unit whilst ensuring a high degree of detection for even

small objects. To illustrate this a single unit has been shown in Figure 8 which covers the same detection area as the two poles of Figure 9.

During normal operation of a single pole as shown in Figure 8, the detector apparatus
5 has to be sensitive to the phone at a range of r_1 in order to be reliably sensitive (where r is the radius of a circular zone of sensitivity that extends out from the pole). The field B_1 that a small object such as a mobile phone, produces at the sensors in the pole at distance r_1 is $B_1=A/r_1^3$ where A is a constant depending on the magnetic strength and orientation of the phone.

10

On the other hand, when there are two detector apparatus as shown in Figure 9 then the maximum distance that the zone of sensitivity needs to extend from either is r_2 . It is advantageous for r_2 to be a half of r_1 , (so the FMDS are separated by r_1 from each other) in which case the field from the phone at the sensors is $B_2=A/r_2^3$ or
15 equivalently $B_2=8xA/r_1^3$. The signal to be detected is 8 times stronger so the sensitivity can be reduced eightfold, i.e. threshold level in the detector increased eightfold, to achieve the same detection performance.

This eightfold reduction in sensitivity level to achieve the same detection performance
20 as the single unit means that the system is eight times less sensitive to external noise and interference, providing a significant advantage in magnetically noisy environments.

Each detector apparatus 102,103 may be provided with a means for reducing the
25 sensitivity when configured as an archway compared with when it is used on its own, to allow the benefit of the reduced sensitivity to be realised.

In a modification, shown in Figure 10, a detector apparatus 201 is provided that has the features of the detector apparatus of Figure 1 but in addition includes a range
30 detection means that enables the detector apparatus to determine when a person passing the detector apparatus may be trying to avoid detection of a contraband item.

The detector apparatus includes a magnetic sensor, band pass filter, amplifier and rectifier of the embodiment of Figures 1 and 4 (represented by the block 210).

35

In addition, the detector apparatus includes a range detection means that comprises a range finder sensor 202 that generates a signal that varies in a known manner as a function of distance to a detected object. In this example a low value is output for an object that is a large distance away and a higher value for a closer object.

5

The range sensor output may therefore be an analogue voltage that is fed into comparators 203, 204 and compared to a fixed voltage from different references 205,206. The output of each comparator 203,204 is low or high depending upon whether the range to the object is below or above a set level defined by its reference
10 signal.

One reference value is set to detect whether a person has passed within a range R1, that is chosen to determine whether a person is actually passing the unit or not. The second reference is set at the shorter range R2, above which a person is deemed to be
15 avoiding the unit. The outputs of the two comparators are fed into a logic means that determines whether the person has passed in-between the ranges R1 and R2, in which case the 'avoidance detected' alert is activated. One of many simple ways to achieve this is with an AND operation with an inverted input as shown in the figure.

20 In this specific example, the signal from the range finder sensor 202 is fed to one input of a first comparator 203. The other input of the comparator is fed with a reference signal REF 1, 205 that corresponds to a maximum distance of a range within which objects are to be detected. The output of the comparator is low if the signal from the range finder is below REF 1 but goes high if it is above REF 1. This
25 corresponds to a logical YES, that the object is closer than the maximum distance of the range.

The signal is also fed to one input of a second comparator 204. The other input of the second comparator is fed with a reference signal 206, REF 2, that corresponds to a
30 minimum distance of a range within which objects are to be detected. The output of the comparator is low if the signal from the range finder is below REF 2 but goes high if it is above REF 2. This corresponds to a logical YES, that the object is closer than the range minimum.

The two signals are fed to an AND gate 207, the output of the second comparator being inverted first, so that the AND gate produces a logical zero when the object is outside of a range of distances whose maximum and minimum distance is bounded by REF 1 and REF 2 respectively, and a logical one when it is inside the range. As shown
5 the maximum is distance R1 and minimum is distance R2. This logical signal forms a warning signal that a person may be trying to avoid detection.

The minimum distance R2 of the range is chosen such that the outer extremity (point furthest from the FMDS) of a person or object passes within the zone of reliable
10 detection of the magnetic sensor. Thus, if a person passes within the zone with a magnetic object an alert is raised (magnetic object detected) and no avoidance warning is raised (object within range). It is known that the sensitivity of the magnetic sensor to objects in this zone is high enough to reliably detect a contraband object. On
15 the other hand, if a person passes outside of the zone of reliable sensitivity but within the range of the range finder (distance greater than R2 but less than R1) then a warning will be raised (person avoiding detection). If the person passes outside of the maximum range of the range finder (distance greater than R1) then no avoidance alert will be raised as it is assumed that this person is not being screened as they will be obviously avoiding screening and no alert is needed to help spot that. If a magnetic
20 object is detected at this range, no alert will be raised.

The detector apparatus 201 may include a beacon or other alarm 208 that is driven by the warning and alert signals. A different warning/alarm may be issued depending on whether a person is avoiding detection or an object has been detected. A sequence
25 filter 209 is included to avoid the momentary alert signal that is otherwise inevitable when a person or object approaches because they have to come within R1 momentarily before they can come within R2.

In a modification shown in Figure 11, a detector apparatus 301 may be provided that
30 is similar to the detector apparatus 201 in that it includes a range detector whose output is processed by two comparators to identify when an object is in a bounded range of distances from the magnetic sensor. In this embodiment, the output of the first comparator 203, that indicates if an object is within the zone of sensitivity (distance less than R1), may be processed together with the alert signal generated by
35 the magnetic detector circuit of the detector apparatus using an AND gate or other

logical means so that an alarm is only raised if the object is in the zone of sensitivity. This will ensure that no false alarms are raised by objects with a high magnetic field are moving in the vicinity of the detector apparatus such as vehicles, trains, lifts etc. Here, the main alarm sounds if there is a coincidence or correlation between the detected magnetic signal and the indication that a person is passing closer than R1. This desirably eliminates false alerts from strong distant (>R1) magnetic objects moving (e.g. cell doors, vehicles, etc.). If a person carries a magnetic object past that is detected and they are within R1 then the main alarm will sound, even if they pass further than R2. If no magnetic object is detected there is never any main alarm, however if the person passes further than R2 then the ‘avoidance detected’ alert is given, and that person would be re-scanned.

The complete truth table for the detector apparatus with the range finder is shown below.

Input conditions				Output states	
R>R1	R1>R>R2	R2>R	Magnetic detected	Avoidance detected alert	Main Alert
✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
			✓	✗	✗
✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
			✓	✓	✓
✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
			✓	✗	✓

15

CLAIMS

1. A security screening apparatus for use in detecting ferromagnetic objects, for example contraband items such as mobile phones, comprising:
 - 5 a detector apparatus which comprises a housing that supports at least one magnetic sensor arranged to produce a signal indicative of an ambient magnetic field or gradient over a zone of sensitivity which extends away from the housing, the size of the zone being large enough to contain the whole body of the person, and a signal processing circuit which receives as an input the signal from the magnetic sensor and which, in
10 response to a change in the signal produces an alert signal; a beacon that comprises a light source that in use is able to emit at least two visually distinct colours of light, and a control means which controls the light source such that in a first condition in the absence of the alert signal the beacon emits a first colour light and in a second condition corresponding to the presence of the alert signal the beacon emits a second,
15 different, colour of light, and characterised in that the light source is arranged such that the position and/or size and/or shape of the illuminated area of the light source in the first condition is different from the position and/or size and or shape of the illuminated area of the light source in the second condition.
- 20 2. A security screening apparatus according to claim 1 in which the beacon is arranged so that the centre of illumination may shift as the colour changes from the first condition to the second and vice versa.
3. A security screening apparatus according to claim 1 or claim 2 in which the
25 beacon is arranged so that the boundary of the area of illumination may shift as the colour changes from the first condition to the second and vice versa.
4. A security screening apparatus according to any of claims 1, 2 or 3 in which the warning beacon is arranged so that a person can view the light that is emitted in
30 the first condition and the light that is emitted in the second condition over a 360 angle of visibility in a horizontal plane.
5. A security screening apparatus according to any preceding claim in which the
35 beacon changes between two or more visual states, for example between two or more different colours.

6. A security screening apparatus according to claim 1 in which the beacon is in the first condition corresponding to no alert at all times when it is switched on, to show that the apparatus is ready to detect an object.
- 5
7. A security screening apparatus according to claim 1 in which the beacon comprises two sets of single colour LEDs, each set of a different colour to the other set, that are spread in an array such that the 'centre of illumination' for each colour is at a different location when the LEDs of a set are illuminated.
- 10
8. A security screening apparatus according to claim 1 in which the perceived centre of light moves and in which the amount of movement is limited to at most 20-30mm, or at most 2-3mm of perceived movement.
- 15
9. A security screening installation comprising a screening zone within which a person or object is to be screened and a security screening apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 8 in which the detector apparatus is offset from the screening zone such that the zone of detection covers the screening zone and an operating zone in which a person who is operating the device is positioned so that when they are
- 20
- viewing the screening zone they have the beacon of the detector apparatus in their peripheral vision.
10. A security screening installation according to claim 9 in which the operating zone is located on a first side of the screening zone and people and objects to be
- 25
- screened may be located on an opposing side of the screening zone and moving through the screening zone towards the operating zone, the beacon of the detector apparatus being located in a region of the peripheral vision of a person located in the operating zone viewing a person moving towards them through the screening zone.
- 30
11. A security screening installation according to claim 10 or 11 in which the screening zone is located between opposing side walls of a corridor or room or between two spaced apart barriers, the detector apparatus being located on one of the walls or barriers.
- 35
12. A security screening system comprising:

a detector apparatus which comprises at least one magnetic sensor arranged to produce a signal indicative of an ambient magnetic field or gradient over a zone of sensitivity around the sensor, the zone being large enough to contain the whole body of the person, and a signal processing circuit which receives as an input the signal from the magnetic sensor and which, in response to a change in the signal produces an alert signal;

characterised in that the detector apparatus includes a transmitter that transmits a non-visible and non-audible warning signal when the alert signal is produced, and further comprising:

10 a remote warning device that is physically separate from the detector apparatus and comprises a receiver that is responsive to the transmitted warning signal issued by the detector module and generates a remote alert signal when the warning signal is received, whereby the alert signal can be associated with a person or object in the detection zone of the apparatus.

15

13. A security screening system according to claim 12 in which the detector apparatus includes a beacon that is switchable between an inactive state in which the beacon does not respond to the alert signal and an active state in which the beacon responds by generating an audible, visible or audio/visual warning signal configured so that the beacon may be switched to the inactive state whilst the remote warning device is active, so that a person observing the security screening system is fooled into thinking that it is not operating or has not detected anything.

20

14. A security screening system according to claim 12 or claim 13 in which the transmitted signal comprises an electromagnetic or ultrasonic or infra-red signal.

25

15. A security screening system according to claim 12, 13 or 14 in which the signal is not detectable by the receiver of a mobile phone, including any Bluetooth detector that may be located in a mobile phone.

30

16. A security screening system according to any one of claims 12 to 15 in which the transmitted signal has a relatively short range so that it will alert a nearby guard who is carrying or wearing the remote device, but cannot be detected outside of the range.

35

17. A security screening system according to any one of claims 12 to 16 in which the remote alert device is a transducer that vibrates when the alert signal is generated to generate a haptic signal.
- 5 18. A security screening system according to any one of claims 12 to 17 in which the transmitted signal has a long range to alert a distant guard such as one in a non-local control room.
- 10 19. A security screening system according to any one of claims 12 to 18 which comprises a plurality of a detector apparatus, each of which comprises at least one magnetic sensor arranged to produce a signal indicative of an ambient magnetic field or gradient over a zone of sensitivity around the sensor, the zone being large enough to contain the whole body of the person, and a signal processing circuit which receives as an input the signal from the magnetic sensor and which, in response to a change in
15 the signal produces an alert signal;
and in which each detector apparatus includes a transmitter that transmits a non-visible and non-audible warning signal when the alert signal is produced, and further comprising:
at least one camera that captures images of the area including the detector apparatus or
20 a region adjacent the apparatus in which a person approaching, within or having passed through the zone of sensitivity may be located,
at least one display monitor on which the images captured by the camera can be displayed, and
a controller that is responsive to the remote alert signal to cause the image from the
25 camera associated with the detector apparatus that has generated the alert to be displayed on the monitor.
- 30 20. A security screening system according to claim 19 which includes a camera for each detector apparatus, each camera capturing an image of a region adjacent the apparatus in which a person approaching, within or having passed through the zone of sensitivity may be located.
- 35 21. A security screening system according to claim 19 or claim 20 in which the camera comprises a video camera and the camera and monitor that form part of closed circuit television security system.

22. A security screening system according to claim 21 in which the means for the detection apparatus to transmit an alert signal to the control room is through the CCTV system, i.e. across the network that transmits the camera information to the monitor.

23. A security screening system according to any one of claims 19 to 22 in which the camera has sensitivity to the near infra-red and the detector apparatus includes a visual warning beacon that includes infrared LEDs to be lit so as to emit an infrared light alert signal.

24. A security screening system according to any one of claims 19 to 23 in which detection apparatus includes a near-ultrasonic transmitter that transmits the alert signal, i.e. 20-22 kHz, which is just beyond the maximum hearing range for a human and associated with each detector apparatus is a microphone that can hear such an alert signal.

25. A security screening installation system comprising:
A first detector apparatus which comprises a first elongate housing that supports at least one magnetic sensor arranged to produce a signal indicative of an ambient magnetic field or gradient over a first zone of sensitivity around the sensor, and a signal processing circuit which receives as an input the signal from the magnetic sensor and which, in response to a change in the signal produces a first alert signal;
A second detector apparatus which includes a second elongate housing that supports at least one magnetic sensor arranged to produce a signal indicative of an ambient magnetic field or gradient over a second zone of sensitivity around the sensor, and a signal processing circuit which receives as an input the signal from the magnetic sensor and which, in response to a change in the signal produces a second alert signal;
Whereby in use the first and second detector apparatus are located at predetermined spaced locations such that an object cannot pass between them without being detected in the zone of sensitivity of at least one of the two detectors.

26. A security screening installation system according to claim 25 that further includes positioning means for setting the relative spaced locations of the two detector apparatus at the correct distance.

27. A security screening installation system according to claim 26 in which the positioning means comprises a connecting beam which connects the two housings of the detector apparatus together at the correct predetermined spaced locations.

5

28. A security screening installation system according to claim 27 in which the connecting beam connects the two housings at a point that is spaced above the ground to form an archway bounded on the sides by the detector housings and at the top by the cross beam.

10

29. A security screening installation system according to any one of claims 25 to 28 in which the sensitivity of each magnetic sensor, which determines the size of the screening zone, is chosen such that an object that has a lowest magnetic field strength that the screening installation is to detect will be detected by the first detector apparatus when it is closer to the housing of that apparatus than to the housing of the second detector apparatus or exactly halfway between the detector apparatus, but will not be detected by the first detector apparatus if it is closer to the other detector apparatus.

15

30. A security screening installation system according to any one of claims 25 to claim 29, in which each detector apparatus is provided with a means for adjusting the sensitivity of the detector apparatus and hence the size of the detection zone.

20

31. A security screening installation system according to any one of claim 27 to 30 in which the cross beam carries information telling an operator what setting to use for that beam.

25

32. A security screening installation system according to any one of claims 27 to 31 in which each of the detector apparatus can function independently as a stand-alone screening apparatus that produces a respective alert when an object passes.

30

33. A kit of parts for use in constructing a security screening installation of any one of claims 27 to 32 comprising a conversion part that includes a connecting beam, and means for securing the cross beam to two detector apparatus.

35

34. A security screening installation system comprising:
a detector apparatus which comprises at least one magnetic sensor arranged to produce
a signal indicative of an ambient magnetic field or gradient over a zone of sensitivity
around the sensor, the zone being large enough to contain the whole body of the
5 person, and a signal processing circuit which receives as an input the signal from the
magnetic sensor and which, in response to a change in the signal produces an alert
signal; and which further includes a range determining means arranged to detect when
an object is located in a defined range of distances bounded by a defined minimum
10 distance from the magnetic sensor and a defined maximum distance from the magnetic
sensor,
and a processing means which produces a warning signal indicative that a person may
be trying to avoid detection of an object if the range determining means indicates that
an object has been detected that is within the defined range.
- 15 35. A security screening installation system according to claim 34 in which the
minimum distance of the range corresponds to the edge of the zone of sensitivity such
that an object that is located within the zone of sensitivity does not generate a warning
signal as it is outside of the range.
- 20 36. A security screening installation system according to any one of claims 34 or
35 in which the range determining means comprises an optical range sensor that emits
and receives light in the visible or infra-red spectrum.
- 25 37. A security screening installation system according to any one of claims 34 to
36 in which the range determining means comprises an ultrasonic or radar based range
finder.
- 30 38. A security screening installation system according to any one of claims 34 to
37 in which the range determining means produce a variable output signal that has a
value dependent on the range, the boundaries of the range being set by detecting when
the value is within a defined range of values.
- 35 39. A security screening installation system according to claim 38 arranged to
determine when an object is in range by feeding the output signal into a first
comparator where it is compared with a first reference signal, and also feeding the

output signal to a second comparator where it is compared with a second, different, reference signal, the two outputs of the comparators being input to an exclusive OR gate, the output of which defines the warning signal.

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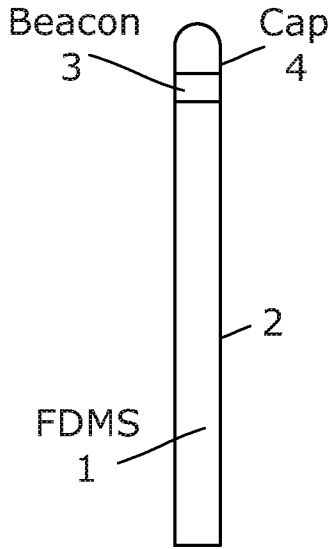


Figure 1

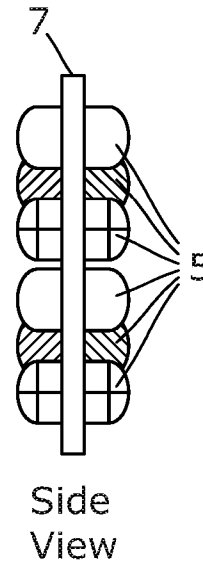


Figure 3

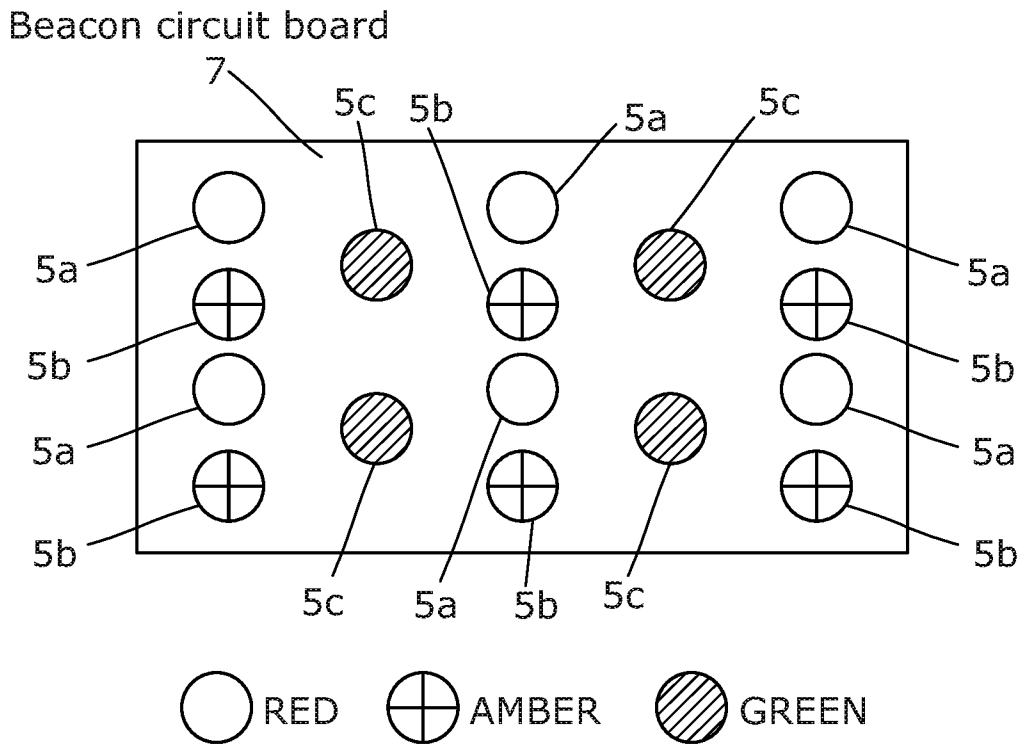


Figure 2

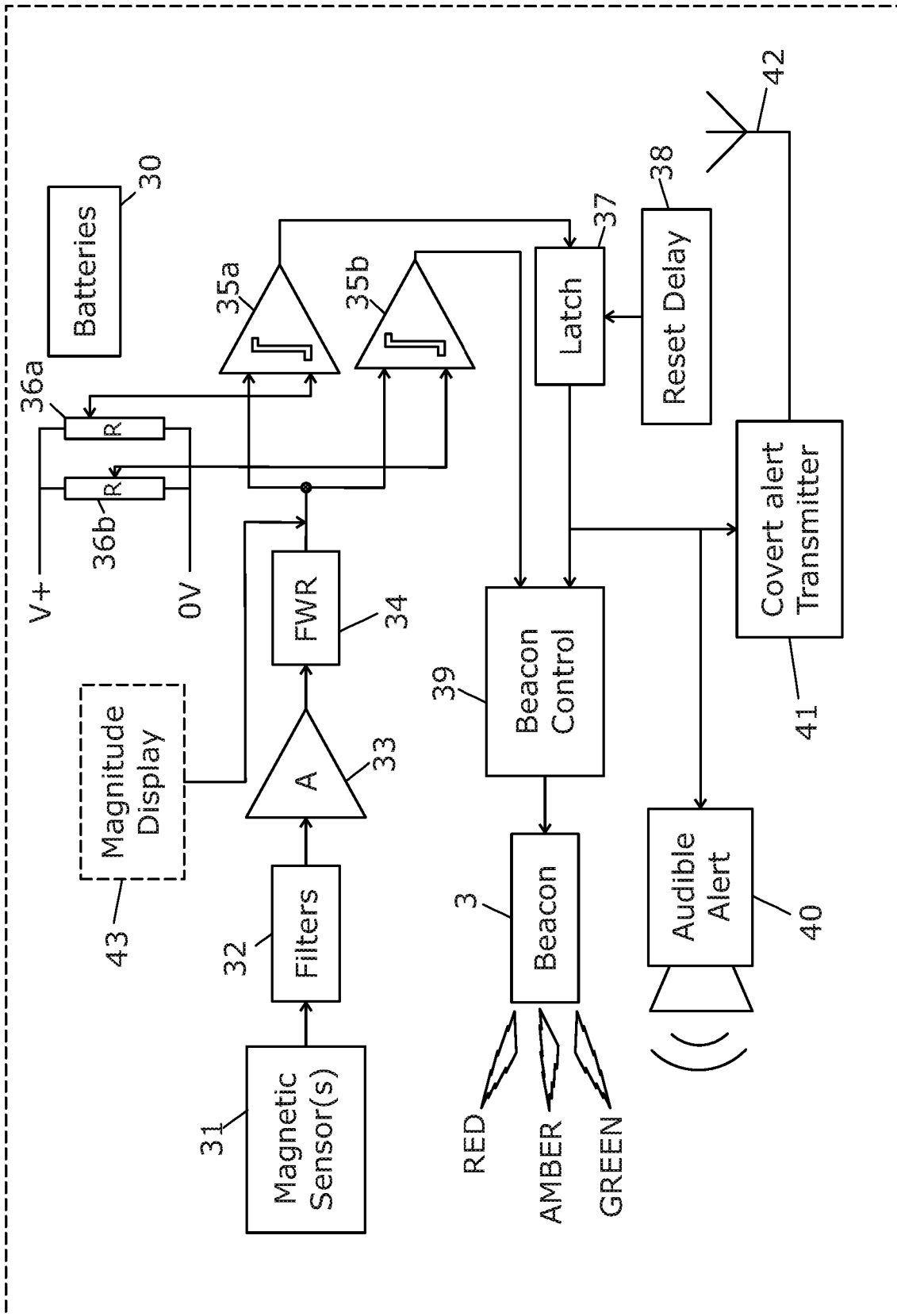


Figure 4

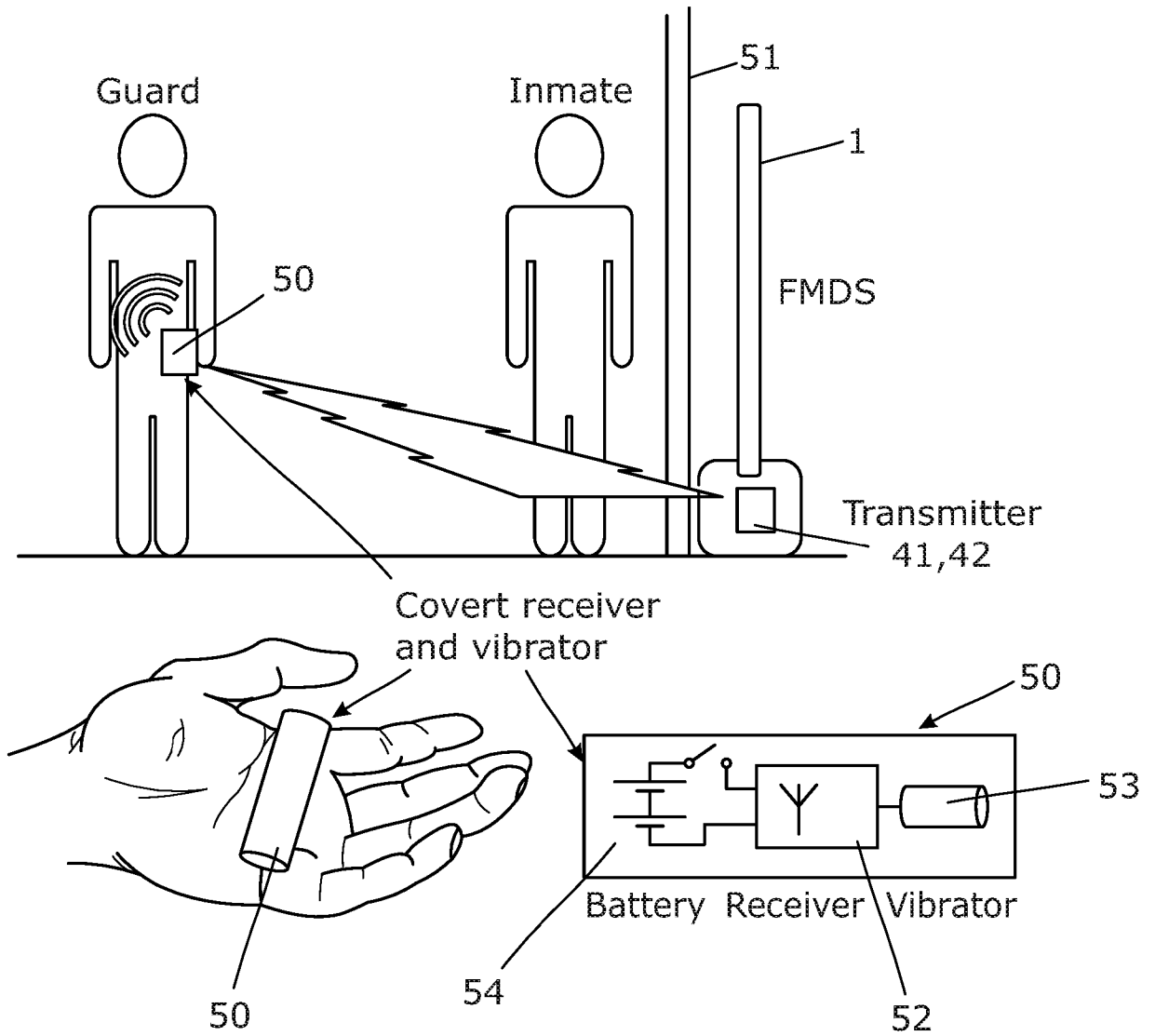


Figure 5

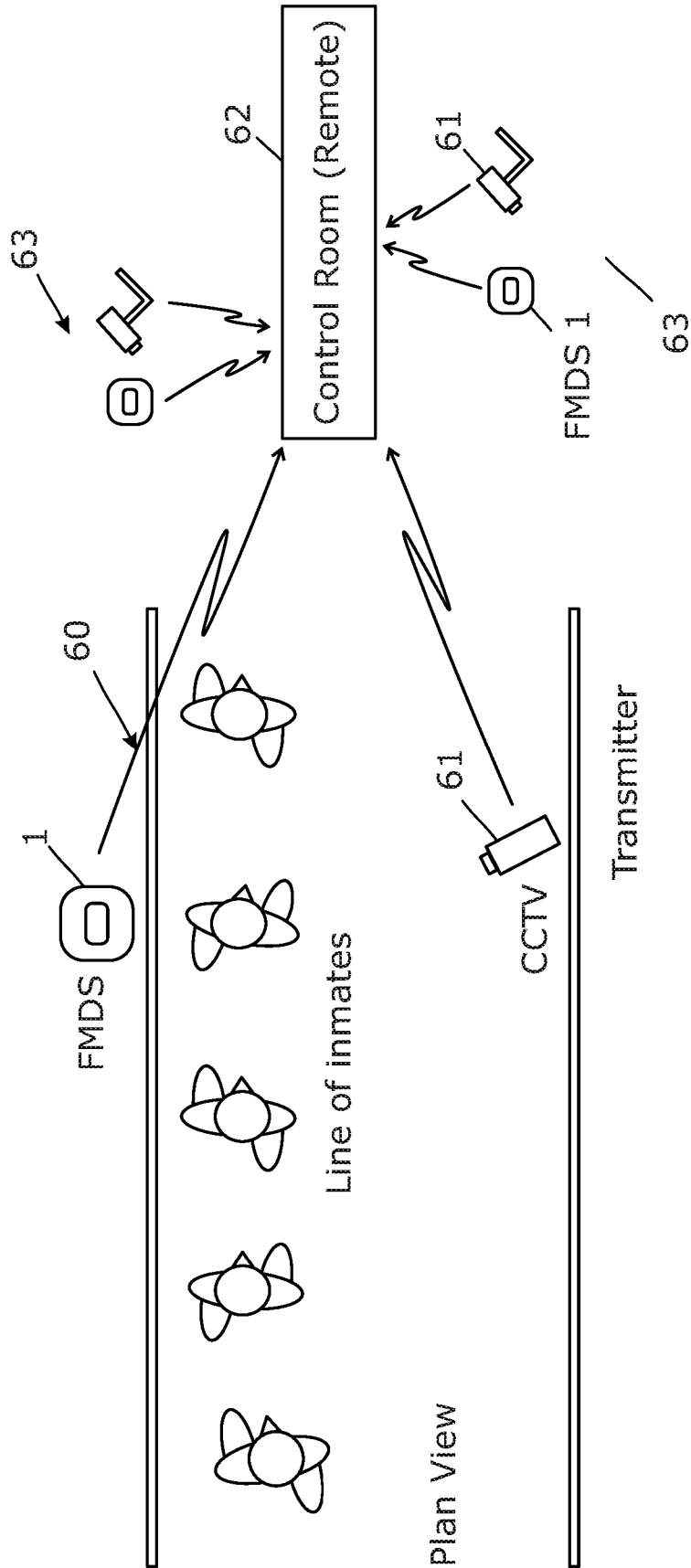


Figure 6

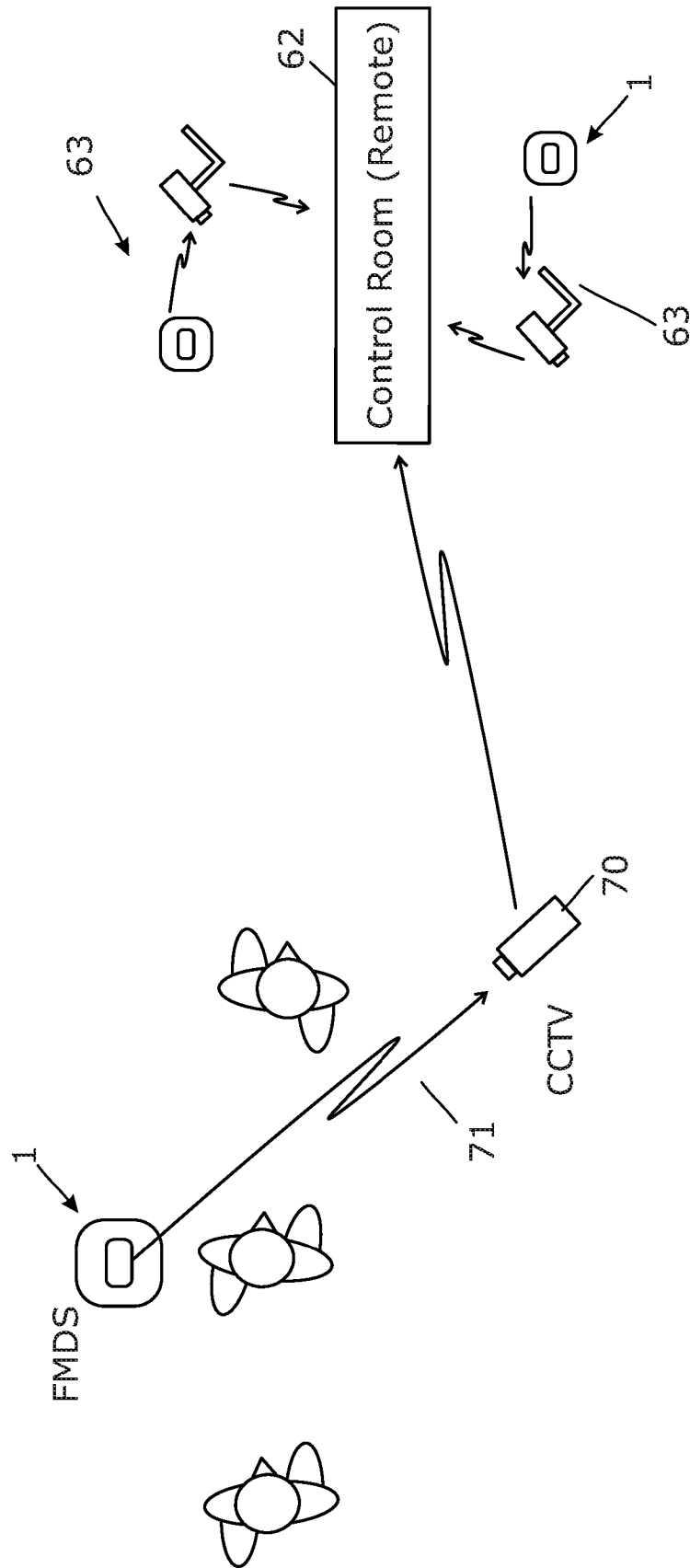


Figure 7

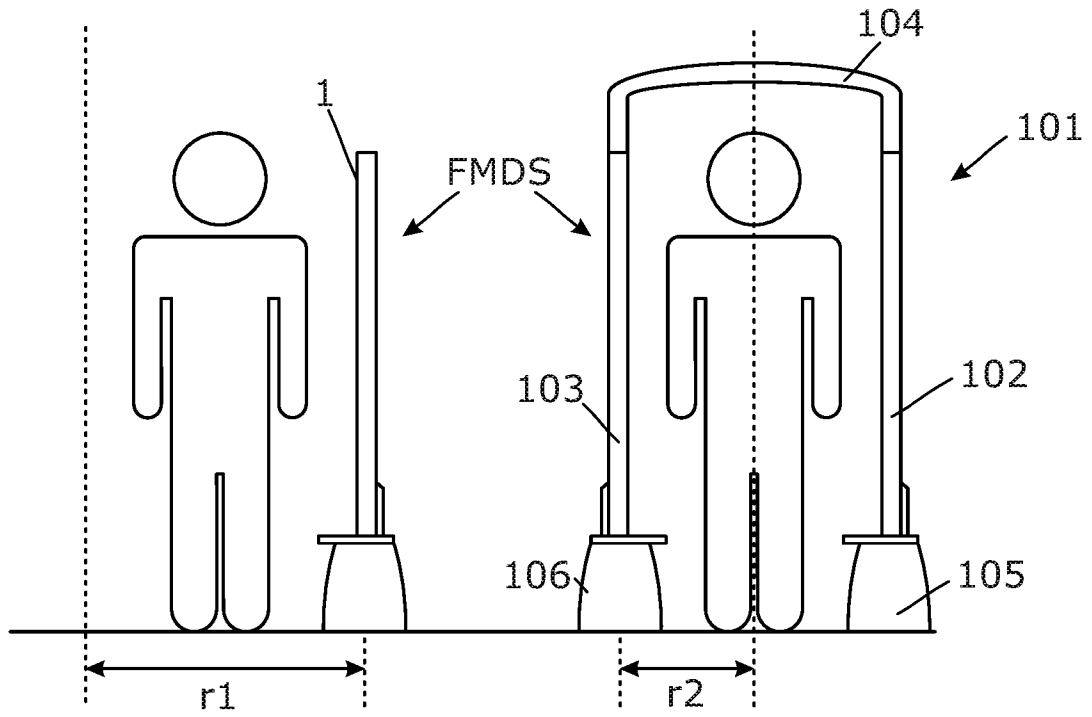


Figure 8

Figure 9

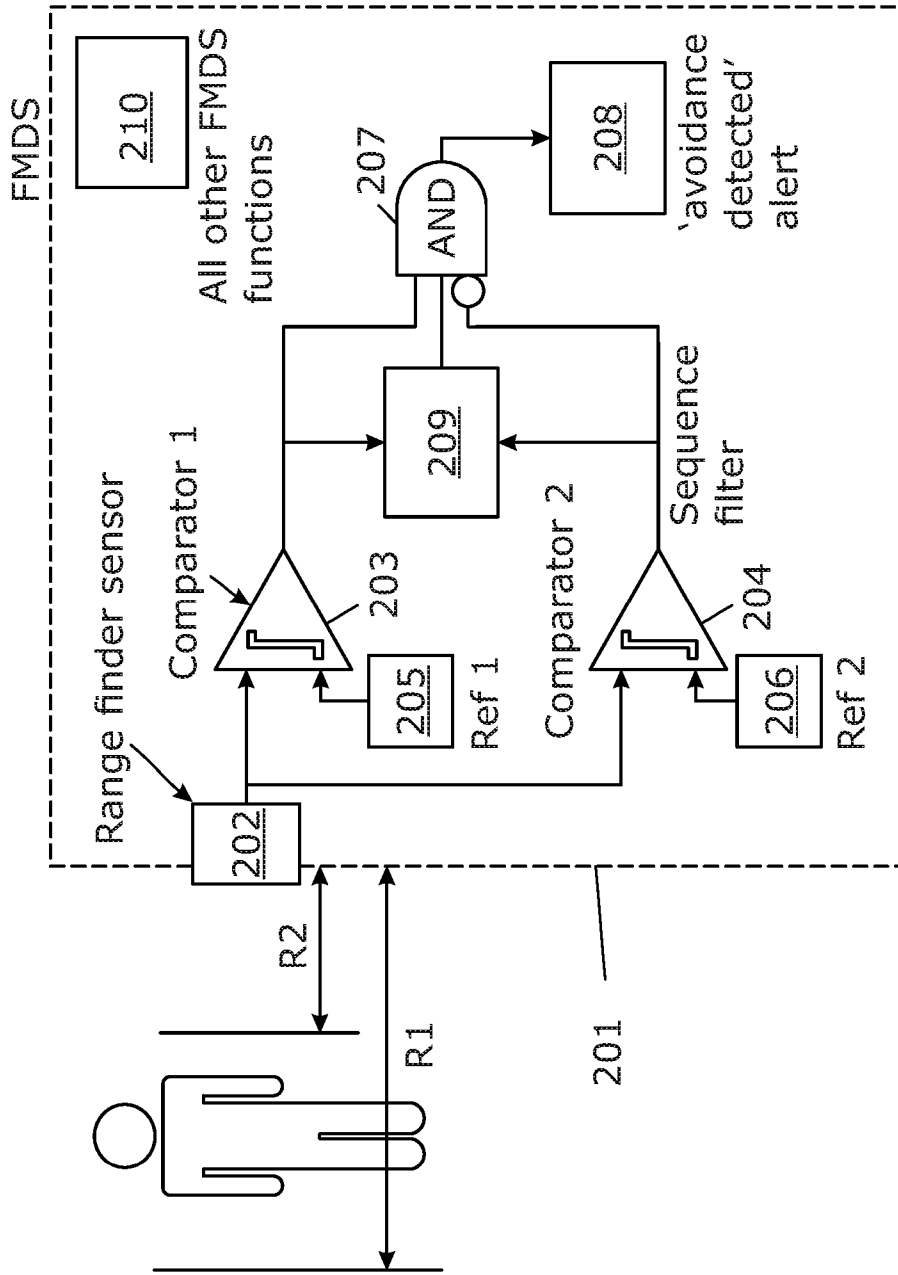


Figure 10

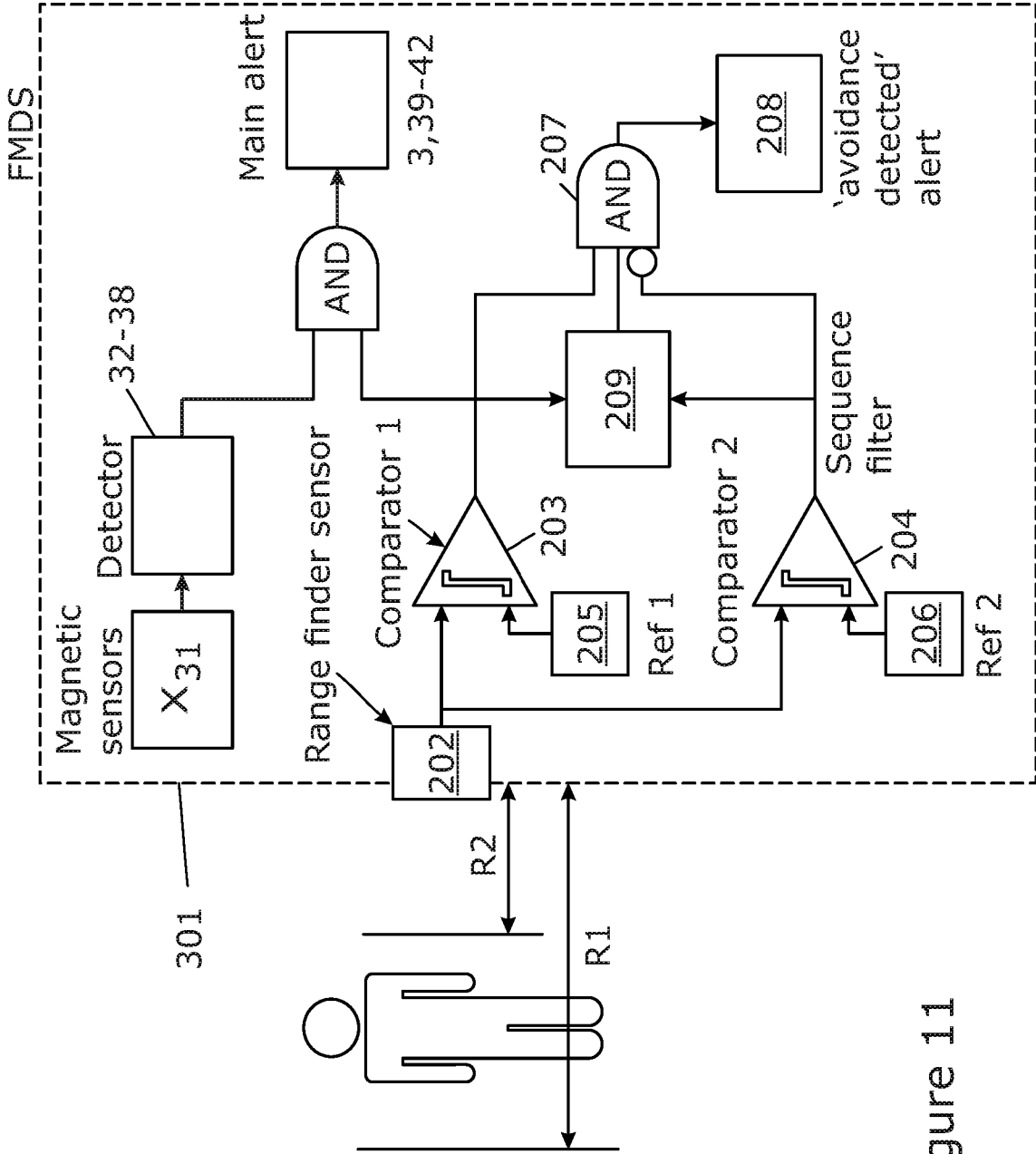


Figure 11

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/GB2015/054034

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 INV. G01V3/08
 ADD. G08B5/36

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 G01V G08B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
 EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 2013/307533 A1 (KEENE MARK N [GB] ET AL) 21 November 2013 (2013-11-21) paragraphs [0010], [0015], [0052], [0059]; figure 1	1-11
A	US 2008/084301 A1 (ROYBAL LYLE GENE [US] ET AL) 10 April 2008 (2008-04-10) paragraphs [0004], [0008] - [0010]	1-11
A	US 2014/232382 A1 (GOODYEAR SIMON WRAY [GB] ET AL) 21 August 2014 (2014-08-21) paragraphs [0001], [0006] - [0014], [0062]; figure 1	1-11
	----- -/--	

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
18 March 2016	06/06/2016

Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Naujoks, Marco
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB2015/054034

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-11

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/GB2015/054034

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 2014/064429 A2 (METRASENS LTD [GB]) 1 May 2014 (2014-05-01) page 1, lines 1-25 page 4, lines 2-29 page 20, line 26 - page 22, line 15 -----	1-11
A	US 2007/290843 A1 (MANNESCHI ALESSANDRO [IT]) 20 December 2007 (2007-12-20) paragraphs [0015], [0035] - [0040]; figure 1 -----	1-11
A	US 2013/229518 A1 (REED WILLIAM G [US] ET AL) 5 September 2013 (2013-09-05) paragraphs [0006] - [0012], [0078] - [0079], [0082], [0085], [0086] -----	1-11
A	US 2013/187788 A1 (SALTER GEOFFREY DAVID VINCENT [CA]) 25 July 2013 (2013-07-25) paragraphs [0021] - [0029]; figure 1 -----	1-11
A	US 2008/080178 A1 (KITA YASUSHI [JP] ET AL) 3 April 2008 (2008-04-03) paragraphs [0006] - [0023]; figures 1,2, 4, 5 -----	1-11
A	US 2009/122547 A1 (HOU SHENG-FA [TW]) 14 May 2009 (2009-05-14) paragraphs [0001], [0010] - [0016] -----	1-11
A	WO 2011/086369 A1 (CLICK NETHERFIELD LTD [GB]; CHAPLIN MICHAEL PETER BRIAN [GB]) 21 July 2011 (2011-07-21) page 10, line 6 - page 13, line 3; figure 1 -----	1-11

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/GB2015/054034

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2013307533 A1	21-11-2013	EP 2850462 A2 US 2013307533 A1 WO 2013171498 A2	25-03-2015 21-11-2013 21-11-2013
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US 2009122547 A1	14-05-2009	CN 101435549 A US 2009122547 A1	20-05-2009 14-05-2009
WO 2011086369 A1	21-07-2011	NONE	

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-11

How to grasp the attention of a guard who observes a security screening apparatus potentially not in his direct (paracentral) vision but in his peripheral vision for a change in condition of the security screening apparatus?

2. claims: 12-24

How to avoid bringing the guard observing the security screening apparatus into a dangerous situation?

3. claims: 25-33

How to avoid an object to pass between two sensor detector apparatus without them being detected in the zone of sensitivity of at least one of the two detectors?

4. claims: 34-39

How to detect whether an object is located in a defined range of distances from the magnetic sensors?
