INFORMATIONSERVICE SECURITY

Information on

Minimum weight and mounting/anchoring of free-standing safes

Free-standing secure storage units – also called safes – shall be designed such that they are able to withstand the different attacks of offenders. For this purpose besides a high-valuable construction a careful assignment of the materials (e.g. filling material) and component parts (e.g. locks, bolt work) is necessary.

The burglar-resisting features of safes and strongrooms have objectively been proved by the VdS test and certification scheme. To ensure a constant product quality, the manufacturer shall operate a certified quality management system according to ISO 9001. Further on the manufacturing site of the manufacturer is audited on a regular base (product surveillance).

Depending of the grade of resistance these measures serve for a high level of resistance against attacks of burglars. The problem of the complete removal of the safes, however, this way could not be solved.

In order to being able to counteract this kind of attack of offenders, free-standing safes shall dispose of a minimum weight which renders the removal difficult. Alternatively the safes shall be **fixed/anchored in a sufficient way**.

A simple easy possibility to counteract a removal is the construction of a safe as a unit with **a minimum weight of 1,000 kg**. This weight shall be reached by the construction itself, but not by the storage of weights or goods to be protected. When safes with a high deadweight are used, it is to be considered that the admitted floor loading of buildings shall not be exceeded. Also the transport itself may cause problems in single cases (e.g. for maximum loading of elevators). The weight (the mass) of VdS approved safes is documented in the VdS listing as well as on the respective approval label.

VdS approved safes with a weight of less than 1,000 kg are pre-prepared for the **professional mounting/anchoring** of the safe on site. This pre-preparation inclusively the technical documentation, in which the expert mounting/anchoring of the safes is described are tested and certified in the framework of the VdS approval. The fixing/anchoring of the safes on site is performed with appropriate installation material and professional personal. During the mounting especial the wall resp. floor constructions have to be taken into consideration. If necessary, the standard mounting as recommended by the manufacturer (as a general rule mounting is made on a massive, concrete base for which the manufacturer of the safes delivers fixing anchors) to be adopted to the conditions on site. The mounting should be documented by the performing professional in the *Confirmation for Mounting a Secure Storage Unit (Safe) or an ATM Base*, VdS 3540. This Confirmation for Mounting a Secure Storage Unit (Safe) or ATM Base renders a retracing even after years possible, how the secure storage unit was mounted/anchored.

Especially recommended are safes, which besides the mounting possibility provide a so-called monitoring of removal (in the framework of the surveillance measures of an intruder alarm system). With such a removal monitoring it is possible already with the first attempt to detect the removal attempt and to generate an intrusion signal/message, long before the mounting/anchoring is overcome.

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Heruntergeladen von IP 216.73.217.61 am 07.11.2026 - 22:53