# CASE STUDY

## SLIDING GATE AT MULTI OCCUPANCY FLATS

**Setting:** Multi occupancy flats

**Type of Gate:** Single leaf tracked slider constructed of box section steel and railing powered by a 24 volt operator.

**Site details:** Gate is situated to prevent unauthorised access to the car parking and garages to the rear of the block of flats. The gate is installed across sloping ground so the run back area has a gully into which the gate opens.

**Rationale for gate:** To provide security for parked vehicles on the premises. There is free entry and exit for pedestrian visitors by a pushbutton either side which partially opens the gate.

The Managing agents wanted a risk assessment carried out for the gate system as part of the maintenance programme for the property.

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**Safety issues identified:**

1. Risk of impact and crushing. No physical stop in the closed position. Potentially the gate could move past the fully closed position if the motor lost its position or the gate was moved in manual release.

2. Risk of dragging and drawing in. No protection to gate leaf as it runs in the gully. Motor drive is also exposed. Potential access available from the outside of site between the hedge and gate. All these risks could be easily mitigated if the run back area were to be fenced off.

3. Risk of impact and crushing. Safety edge fitted to the rear of the gate leaf 120mm from bottom. This leaves an area unprotected by the edge. NOTE the requirement for this edge will be negated by the fitting of the cage as mentioned above.

4. Risk of impact and crushing. Safety edges revert the gate when activated irrespective of gate direction. This could trap someone against the close portal if they touched the safety edge on the gate as it was opening. The edges should be wired to only work only in their desired direction.

5. Risk of dragging and drawing in. Photocells do not stop the gate from starting to open should the photocell beam be obstructed. A person could place a limb through the gate and be dragged as the gate opens even if the photocells were interrupted.

6. Risk of dragging and drawing in. Gap above the gate leaf in the hang portal is very large (100mm). Someone could get dragged into a dangerous position should they put their arm in this area.

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**Safety issues identified:**

7. Risk of entrapment. Manual release keys for the motor not readily available. It is vital that all users of the gate have access to the manual release keys and in addition, they must have received training on how to release the gate should anyone be trapped.

**Action taken:** The Gate Safe report was forwarded to the site managing agents who are now gathering quotations for the upgrade works.