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SCS Sentinel AAM0036

SCS Sentinel AAM0036 Infrared Photocell User Manual

Model: AAM0036
Brand: SCS Sentinel

1. Product Overview

The SCS Sentinel AAM0036 Infrared Photocell system is a safety device designed for controlling automatic gates. It consists of a transmitter and a receiver, working together to detect obstructions in the gate's path, thereby enhancing safety for users and property.
These photocells are built to withstand outdoor conditions, featuring IP44 water-resistant covers for both the transmitter and receiver units.
Key Features:

- **Automatic Activation:** Photocell activation occurs automatically when the infrared beam is broken.
- **Detection Method:** Infrared technology.
- **Sensor Range:** Up to 10 meters (in open field conditions).
- **Input Voltage:** AC/DC 12-24V.
- **Contact Current:** TX 30mA max - RX 25mA max.
- **Compatibility:** Suitable for all SCS Sentinel gate operators, with the exception of CTR48/CTR49 electronic card operators.



Figure 1: Two SCS Sentinel AAM0036 infrared photocell units. These are the primary components of the safety system, designed to be mounted on opposite sides of a gate opening.

2. Setup and Installation

Proper installation is crucial for the optimal performance and safety of your photocell system. It is recommended to consult a qualified professional for installation if you are unsure.

2.1. Components Check

Before beginning installation, ensure all components are present and undamaged. The package typically includes two photocell units (one transmitter, one receiver) and mounting hardware.

2.2. Mounting Location

The photocells should be mounted on rigid, stable surfaces on opposite sides of the gate opening. Ensure they are aligned perfectly to allow the infrared beam to pass unobstructed. The recommended installation method is wall mounting.

- Mount the units at an appropriate height, typically between 20-60 cm (8-24 inches) from the ground, to detect vehicles and pedestrians effectively.
- Avoid direct sunlight exposure on the receiver, as this can interfere with the infrared beam.
- Ensure the detection range of up to 10 meters is sufficient for your gate opening.



Figure 2: An SCS Sentinel AAM0036 photocell unit installed on a gate post. The unit is discreetly mounted near the base of the gate, demonstrating a typical installation scenario for automatic gate safety.

2.3. Wiring

Connect the photocells to your gate operator's control board according to the wiring diagram provided with your gate system. The photocells require a 12-24V AC/DC power supply. Ensure all connections are secure and insulated to prevent short circuits and water ingress.

- Identify the transmitter and receiver units.
- Connect the power supply wires and signal wires to the appropriate terminals on each unit and the gate operator.
- Refer to your gate operator's manual for specific wiring instructions for safety devices.

3. Operating Instructions

Once properly installed and wired, the SCS Sentinel AAM0036 photocells operate automatically as a safety

mechanism for your gate system.

3.1. Automatic Detection

The transmitter unit emits an invisible infrared beam towards the receiver unit. When this beam is continuous, it signals to the gate operator that the path is clear. If an object (person, vehicle, animal) breaks the infrared beam while the gate is closing, the photocells will immediately signal the gate operator to stop or reverse its movement, preventing potential accidents or damage.

3.2. System Integration

The photocells work in conjunction with your automatic gate operator. Their primary function is to provide an additional layer of safety by detecting obstructions. They do not control the gate's opening or closing cycle directly but rather act as a safety interlock.

4. Maintenance

Regular maintenance ensures the longevity and reliable operation of your photocell system.

- **Cleaning:** Periodically clean the lenses of both the transmitter and receiver units with a soft, damp cloth. Dust, dirt, spiderwebs, or debris can obstruct the infrared beam and cause false detections or system malfunctions.
- **Alignment Check:** Occasionally check the alignment of the photocells. If they are knocked out of alignment, the beam may not reach the receiver, leading to the gate not closing or stopping unexpectedly.
- **Wiring Inspection:** Inspect the wiring connections for any signs of wear, corrosion, or damage. Ensure all connections remain secure and waterproof.
- **Environmental Factors:** Be aware that heavy rain, fog, or snow can sometimes temporarily interfere with infrared beam transmission. Ensure proper drainage around the units.

5. Troubleshooting

If your SCS Sentinel AAM0036 photocells are not functioning as expected, consider the following common issues and solutions:

- **Gate Not Closing / Stops Unexpectedly:**
  - **Obstruction:** Check if anything is blocking the beam between the transmitter and receiver.
  - **Misalignment:** Ensure the transmitter and receiver are perfectly aligned. Adjust as necessary.
  - **Dirty Lenses:** Clean the lenses of both units.
  - **Wiring Issue:** Check all wiring connections for looseness or damage.
  - **Power Supply:** Verify that the photocells are receiving the correct 12-24V AC/DC power.
- **Photocells Not Responding:**
  - **Power:** Confirm power is supplied to the units.
  - **Damage:** Inspect units for visible physical damage.
  - **Compatibility:** Ensure the photocells are compatible with your specific gate operator model (not compatible with CTR48/CTR49).
- **False Detections:**
  - **Sunlight Interference:** If direct sunlight hits the receiver, try to shield it or adjust its position slightly if possible.

- **Reflective Surfaces:** Ensure there are no highly reflective surfaces near the beam path that could cause interference.

If the problem persists after attempting these solutions, contact SCS Sentinel technical support.

6. Specifications

Detailed technical specifications for the SCS Sentinel AAM0036 Infrared Photocell system:

Feature	Specification
Model Number	AAM0036
Manufacturer	SCS Sentinel
Product Dimensions	3 x 6.31 x 6.31 cm; 120 g
Color	Black
Material	Metal
Power Source	12-24 V AC/DC
Voltage	24 Volt
Installation Method	Wall Mount
Number of Items in Package	1 (refers to the pair of photocells)
Lamp Type	Infrared
Special Features	Infrared detection
Usage	Automatic gate control (residential, commercial, industrial)
Included Components	Photocells
Batteries Required	No
Protection Rating	IP44 (Water-resistant)
Detection Range	Up to 10 meters (open field)

7. Warranty and Support

SCS Sentinel is committed to providing reliable and innovative technical products.

7.1. Warranty Information

This SCS Sentinel AAM0036 model comes with a**2-year warranty** against defects in material or manufacturing from the date of delivery or product receipt. The warranty is applicable only upon presentation of proof of purchase. The effect of this warranty is strictly limited to the replacement of parts with a clearly established manufacturing defect.

7.2. Technical Support

SCS Sentinel offers technical support to assist you with the installation and operation of your product. Our

technicians are available to provide personalized advice and ensure your satisfaction.
For support, please refer to the contact information provided on the official SCS Sentinel website or your product packaging. You can also visit the product page on Amazon.nl for additional resources.

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