GATE-A-MATION
AUTOMATIC GATE SYSTEMS

AUTOMATIC GATES FAIL SECURE OR RELEASE?

How should my automatic gate be when the power goes off? This is a very good question and one that needs some real consideration!

Should the power supply fail or the system become faulty the gate can either **'Fail Secure'** or **'Fail Release'**. Some installations have battery-back-up on all or part of the system, but even this must fail one way or the other, when the battery runs out! Battery failure is very common and often only noticed when it is needed!



If set to **'Fail Secure'**, the gate will need to be overridden or manually released before it can be opened or closed. This is usually an easy concept but may prove harder to achieve in real life, just when it is needed. The release mechanisms can be easy or hard to operate and all require maintenance during the life of the system. Some are above ground, some are at ground level or near it and others are below ground. The ones near or below ground often cause the most trouble and need more maintenance and care.



'Fail Release' is when the system or operator is set up to allow reversal during a power failure or system fault. This means the gate may be used manually without the need to release the mechanism/operator from the gate.

Both formats have advantages as well as disadvantages. The most obvious is security and this can be addressed in numerous ways with supplementary locking added to a fail release system. Fail secure systems do what they say and fail in a secure fashion, with the

operator usually locking the gate in position. Electric locks on non-locking operators can still result in a Fail secure state, without the operator having to be the lock.

This all sounds confusing, what is best*?* Each have there place and the requirement of the system, in its environment have a lot to do with it. The controls used the level of use and type of user can also make a difference to what is recommended.

Often a domestic installation of normal light use, with a typical size and style of gate, would usually, but not always **'Fail Secure'**.

However a system that is used by a lot of people is normally recommended to **'Fail Release'** and as so, allow users in and out during a failure state. With lots of users this is the far better reaction and less damage is often made to the operators accordingly.

Fail Release has to have additional locking for security and this can become more costly an option. However it can also be by far the safest and most reliable long term solution.

Every day systems fail either way, some more suited than others!

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