

## **Best Practice: Limiting Computer Access**

**Photo Not Available**

**Category:** Security Infrastructure

**Location:** Altamira Terminal Porturia. Altamira, Mexico

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**Description:** Computer access to modify the facility's access control system is limited to management personnel.

**Discussion:** Many facilities have computerized access control systems. These systems can improve efficiency by quickly and securely allowing access to authorized personnel to the facility. It is important to maintain computer security to prevent personnel from system to either deliberately, or inadvertently to modify the system to permit unauthorized individuals to have access. Limited computer permissions to only senior personnel helps to insure system integrity accountability.

**Potential Down-side:** Care must be taken to insure that there are not inordinate delays in authorizing the access of legitimate employees or other authorized personnel. The fewer people there are to actually authorize access, the more potential there is for delay.

**Conclusion:** Giving careful thought as to who should have access to the computer system that plays such an important security role is a must. System integrity must be balance with efficiency, but limited access to a relatively small, accountable pool of people will help to ensure that the system is not circumvented.

**Cost:** The cost for implementing such procedures is minimal as it is largely procedural.