

BS 8517-2:2016



BSI Standards Publication

# Security dogs

Part 2: Code of practice for the use  
of detection dogs

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## Foreword

### Publishing information

This part of BS 8517 is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 30 September 2016. It was prepared by Panel GW/3/-/15, *Security dog users*, under the authority of Technical Committee GW/3, *Private security management and services*. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

### Supersession

This part of BS 8517 supersedes BS 8517-2:2010, which is withdrawn.

### Information about this document

This is a full revision of the standard, which has been updated to aid the understanding of the recommendations and reflect current practice.

Attention is drawn to the Private Security Industry Act 2001 [1], which contains provisions for regulating the private security industry, including security guarding. A person falling within the definition of providing security industry services under the Private Security Industry Act 2001 is required to be licensed in accordance with that Act. The Act can be found online at [www.the-sia.org.uk](http://www.the-sia.org.uk).

### Use of this document

As a code of practice, this part of BS 8517 takes the form of guidance and recommendations. It should not be quoted as if it were a specification and particular care should be taken to ensure that claims of compliance are not misleading.

Any user claiming compliance with this part of BS 8517 is expected to be able to justify any course of action that deviates from its recommendations.

### Presentational conventions

The provisions of this standard are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its recommendations are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is "should".

*Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.*

The word "should" is used to express recommendations of this standard. The word "may" is used in the text to express permissibility, e.g. as an alternative to the primary recommendation of the Clause. The word "can" is used to express possibility, e.g. a consequence of an action or an event.

Notes and commentaries are provided throughout the text of this standard. Notes give references and additional information that are important but do not form part of the recommendations. Commentaries give background information.

### Contractual and legal considerations

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

**Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.**

## 1 Scope

This part of BS 8517 gives recommendations for the operational use of a detection dog by a detection dog handler when providing passive and proactive detection services (e.g. drugs, firearms, munitions, explosives, pyrotechnics, intentionally concealed persons), including records, kennelling/husbandry, dog health and welfare, equipment and clothing, training and operational requirements.

*NOTE 1 Recommendations for static site guarding and mobile patrol services are given in BS 7499. Recommendations for screening of security individuals are given in BS 7858.*

This part of BS 8517 also assists procurers of detection dog services to ensure the service fits the end user requirements and risk profile.

This part of BS 8517 does not apply to the provision of general purpose dogs or dogs and handlers used in other search disciplines.

*NOTE 2 General purpose dogs are covered in BS 8517-1. Other search disciplines are planned to be covered in BS 8517-3.<sup>1)</sup>*

## 2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

BS 7499:2013, *Static site guarding and mobile patrol services – Code of practice*

BS 7858, *Security screening of individuals employed in a security environment – Code of practice*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this part of BS 8517, the terms and definitions given in BS 7499:2013 and the following apply.

### 3.1 detection dog

dog, usually of a recognized type, with specialized training used for detection services

*NOTE 1 Recognized types include labradors, spaniels or other suitable sporting breeds. Guarding breeds (as described in BS 8517-1) are not considered suitable for some detection purposes due to public perception.*

*NOTE 2 Attention is drawn to the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 [2].*

### 3.2 detection dog handler

security officer with specialized training in handling detection dogs

*NOTE Hereafter referred to as "handler".*

### 3.3 instructor/trainer

someone who teaches and educates both people and dogs

### 3.4 kennel

housing providing shelter and a place for a dog to sleep with room to stand up, turn around and lie down in comfort

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<sup>1)</sup> In development at the time of publication.

- 3.5 live/real substance**  
actual substance as opposed to pseudo or artificial scent
- 3.6 organization**  
supplier, individual or company providing security detection dog services
- 3.7 run**  
secure area in which a dog has the freedom to walk about, adjacent to the kennel
- 3.8 scent**  
chemical particles or vapour detected by a dog  
*NOTE Also referred to as "odour".*
- 3.9 self-employed handler**  
individual engaged to provide front line services as specified in the principal contractor assignment instruction  
*NOTE The principal contractor is ultimately responsible and accountable for service delivery to the customer.*
- 3.10 subcontract**  
all, or part, of a contract assigned to another service provider, where the subcontracted service provider is responsible for service delivery including the supply and management of their employees in fulfilment of the subcontract
- 3.11 subcontracted service**  
provision of services on behalf of a principal contractor
- 3.12 subcontracted services provider**  
company that is contracted to provide service delivery on behalf of the principal contractor  
*NOTE The principal contractor is ultimately responsible and accountable for service delivery to the customer.*
- 3.13 team**  
identifiable handler and detection dog that are trained together to undertake detection duties

## 4 Administration

### 4.1 General

Any organization providing dog handling services should screen staff in accordance with BS 7858.

*NOTE Attention is drawn to BS 7499:2013 for guarding activities and BS 7960 when working on licensed premises.*

### 4.2 Subcontracted services

The organization should obtain the customer's agreement on conditions for the use of subcontracted service providers for undertaking the duties of detection dog services.

The subcontracted services provider should also follow the recommendations given in this British Standard. The organization should satisfy itself that these recommendations have been followed. There should be documented evidence that due diligence has been carried out.

### 4.3 Self-employed handlers

The organization should satisfy itself that the self-employed handler meets the recommendations given in this British Standard.

*NOTE Attention is drawn to HMRC guidance on self-employment.*

### 4.4 Insurance

The organization should be adequately insured in accordance with BS 7499:2013, and be specific for the operational deployment of detection dogs (specifying the detection disciplines) and, where applicable, for their training and kennelling.

The organization should also take into account the advisability of professional indemnity insurance where advice is given on either operational deployment or on training.

### 4.5 Canine records

Each detection dog should have an individual record containing the following details:

- a) procurement (including pedigree, if applicable);
- b) name;
- c) owner;
- d) age;
- e) breed/cross-breed;
- f) colour;
- g) sex;
- h) neuter status;
- i) photograph(s) (adequate for identification);
- j) microchip;

*NOTE Attention is drawn to the Microchipping of Dogs Regulations 2014 [3].*

- k) vaccinations;
- l) written veterinary confirmation of fitness for duty (see 6.1);
- m) first aid/veterinary treatment;
- n) training records and certificates (see 8.10);
- o) continuation training records;
- p) incident reports;
- q) complaints;
- r) bite reports; and
- s) final disposal/re-homing certificate.

Records should be kept for a minimum of three years after retirement or death. Minimum periods of retention of records should be reviewed, if applicable, for particular requirements, especially with regard to potential liabilities for civil action.

### 4.6 Assignment records

An accurate record should be kept for a minimum of three years of both dogs' and handlers' work assignments. Such records should also include both contracting in and out of detection dogs or teams.

## 4.7 Health and safety

Organizations should ensure that their health and safety policy statement includes kennelling, training and operational deployment, showing consideration for all the detection disciplines undertaken.

Organizations should ensure that their health and safety policy statement includes the safe handling, storage, transportation and use of specific target substances.

Organizations should ensure, prior to deployment, that their risk assessment includes consideration of the health, safety and welfare of the detection dog.

# 5 Accommodation/husbandry

## COMMENTARY ON CLAUSE 5

*For the purposes of this British Standard, detection dogs can be accommodated at either commercial or residential premises, either in kennels or in a domestic environment.*

## 5.1 Accommodation

### 5.1.1 General

Detection dogs should be kept in a healthy condition, properly accommodated, fed and watered. They should not be left unattended for long periods of time, and should be visited at regular intervals over a 24 h period. Provision should be made for regular exercise.

If detection dogs are kept in a residential/domestic environment, care should be given to ensure maintenance of operational efficiency.

### 5.1.2 Kennels

#### 5.1.2.1 Construction and siting

Where a kennel is used, this should be constructed of suitable materials that cannot cause harm to the detection dog and it should provide secure and efficient housing, free from damp and draughts and extremes of temperature. The kennel should incorporate a run. The kennel and run should be sited with due regard to noise disturbance, prevailing weather conditions and drainage.

Where a kennel is not used (i.e. inside residential accommodation), particular consideration should be given to the welfare of the dog(s).

#### 5.1.2.2 Beds and bedding

Beds and bedding (where used) should be of a suitable size, clean and dry.

#### 5.1.2.3 Size

The kennel should be of sufficient size for the detection dog to stand up, turn around and lie down in comfort.

#### 5.1.2.4 Isolation

Where there is more than one detection dog, arrangements for an isolation kennel with its own separate area and cleaning equipment should be made available for use as necessary.

*NOTE The isolation kennel may be at a separate location.*



## 5.2 Hygiene

Kennels, runs, compounds and surrounding areas should be kept in a clean and tidy condition at all times. Kennels should be thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned daily and disinfected at least weekly. Drains should be disinfected daily with an appropriate disinfectant.

*NOTE Attention is drawn to the existence of legislation applicable to the disposal of faeces; advice on such legislation can be sought from the Environment Agency or local authority.*

Kennels should be inspected regularly for any signs of deterioration, unsuitability or hazards.

Where a kennel is not used (i.e. inside residential accommodation), particular consideration should be given to the welfare of the dog(s).

## 5.3 Premises/kennel(s)

Any commercial premises used to accommodate a detection dog during their rest period should carry adequate warning signs and display emergency information prominently. A designated telephone number should be displayed on a sign at the premises for purposes of emergency contact, ensuring a response in the case of an emergency.

Any residential premises used to accommodate a detection dog should not present a risk to the public. Owners/carers/person(s) in charge should take all reasonable precautions with regard to safety and welfare.

Persons entering and leaving the kennels with detection dogs should shout "dog coming in" or "dog coming out" for the safety of other persons entering the kennels.

At all premises/kennel(s) consideration should be given to those living/working adjacent with particular attention to the effects of noise and other environmental issues.

## 5.4 Emergency and evacuation procedures for kennels

### 5.4.1 General

Organizations should establish procedures for responding to emergencies such as fire, flooding, extreme weather or temperature conditions, intruders, etc.

Where a kennel is not used (i.e. inside residential accommodation), appropriate steps should be taken for the protection of dogs in case of fire or other emergencies.

### 5.4.2 Monitoring

There should be an appropriate method for raising the alarm (e.g. someone on the premises, monitored electronic alarm system).

### 5.4.3 Fire

The responsible person(s) for the detection dog should ensure that a fire risk assessment has been carried out for the kennelling facilities and take all necessary steps to reduce or remove any risk. The fire risk assessment should also cover the arrangements for:

- a) raising the alarm and giving warning;
- b) emergency contact details;
- c) provision of fire fighting equipment; and
- d) evacuation.

#### 5.4.4 Evacuation

The responsible person(s) for the detection dog should ensure that appropriate emergency procedures are in place in the event of the necessity to evacuate kennel(s).

An appropriate safe method should be provided for evacuating and securing detection dogs, taking into account both the safety of the detection dog and individuals, the emergency services and the general public.

## 6 Health and welfare of the detection dog

### COMMENTARY ON CLAUSE 6

*Attention is drawn to the Animal Welfare Act 2006 [4], the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 [5] and the Five Freedoms. The principles of the Five Freedoms were first set out by the government-established Brambell Committee in 1964 and they were in respect of farm animals. They are the basis of humane care and are related to as:*

- 1) *Freedom from hunger and thirst – by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.*
- 2) *Freedom from discomfort – by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.*
- 3) *Freedom from pain, suffering, injury and disease – by prevention and rapid diagnosis and treatment.*
- 4) *Freedom to express normal behaviour – by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animals own kind.*
- 5) *Freedom from fear and distress – by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.*

### 6.1 General

Detection dogs used should be in good health and of sound conformation and over one year of age. Consideration should be given to vaccinations and parasite prevention treatments (e.g. fleas and worms).

Every detection dog should be subjected to an annual examination and certification as fit for duty by a veterinary surgeon.

Detection dogs should receive immediate veterinary treatment when necessary and records should be kept (see 4.5).

All handlers should be trained to have a basic understanding of the normal signs of health for a detection dog and basic canine first aid.

Consideration should be given to the risk of the detection dog ingesting harmful substances, especially during training or operational deployment.

### 6.2 Responsibility

Directors/owners/keepers/managers/carers/person(s) in charge should take ultimate responsibility for the welfare of the detection dog at all times (including when the handler is sick, on holiday or off duty, or when the dog is subcontracted out to a third party).

The welfare of the detection dog is paramount; if there is any doubt in relation to the dog's physical ability to perform its role, the handler/owner/keeper should immediately take steps to withdraw the dog from duty and seek veterinary advice where appropriate.

### 6.3 Routines

A daily general health and well-being inspection of the detection dog should be carried out.

Detection dogs should be groomed regularly.

A comprehensive animal husbandry routine should be in place and daily, weekly and periodic tasks are to be detailed.

Detection dogs should be fed, exercised and rested according to their working pattern, taking account of shifts.

Detection dogs should not be fed immediately prior to commencement of a working shift or vigorous exercise.

It is acceptable to periodically change a detection dog's operational hours but such changes should not occur so frequently as to cause distress.

### 6.4 Food and water

A suitable area should be provided for preparing food, which should be kept vermin free and clean at all times. Refrigeration facilities should be provided where fresh meat is used. All bulk supplies of food should be kept in vermin-proof containers and appropriate stock rotation maintained.

All contaminated food and waste should be disposed of appropriately with no health risk to other animals or humans.

Fresh water should be available to the detection dogs at all times. A nutritious balanced diet should be fed to the dogs. Dogs should be fed after duty according to shift pattern.

*NOTE Split feeds may be used where appropriate.*

### 6.5 Rest and exercise

Detection dogs should receive a minimum 8 h undisturbed rest in their normal environment in every 24 h period. No detection dog should work more than 12 h without such a rest period. Depending on the task in hand and consideration of the environment, terrain and weather conditions the detection dog should be rested on a regular basis and/or taken out of harness, offered water and/or taken to a suitable area to relieve itself.

Recreational breaks (rest or exercised as appropriate) should be at least equal to those prescribed for handlers in the relevant section of the assignment instructions, in addition to this each detection dog should be given a period of safe unrestricted exercise in each 24 h period, during which safety should be taken into account at all times.

*NOTE Attention is drawn to the Working Time Directive 2003/88/EC [6], the Animal Welfare Act [4], the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act [5] and the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 [2].*

### 6.6 End of service

On reaching an age or suffering any condition whereby a detection dog is unable to carry out work effectively without distress being caused, it should be retired to a suitable environment or, where appropriate on grounds of health and safety and welfare, be humanely euthanized by a veterinary surgeon.

*NOTE Advice on sale or gift of dogs is given in Clause 11.*

## 7 Equipment and clothing

### 7.1 General equipment

Handlers should be issued with the following equipment:

- a) suitable collar with a strong welded "D" clip at end or slip collar with ID of the owner;

*NOTE 1 The collar needs to be of appropriate strength, construction and design so as to control the detection dog without causing harm.*

*NOTE 2 Attention is drawn to the Control of Dogs Order 1992 [7], local by-laws and the Road Traffic Act 1988 [8].*

- b) strong lead with hand loop;
- c) suitable search harness;
- d) reward item;
- e) search lead;
- f) food and water bowls;
- g) grooming equipment; and
- h) muzzle.

To avoid cross contamination, collars and muzzles should be unique to each detection dog.

The issued equipment should be of a serviceable quality and only used for its intended purpose.

Misuse or harsh use of any collar should be avoided as it can cause suffering leading to injury to a detection dog.

*NOTE 3 Significant pressure on any collar can cause nerve damage or collapse the airway of any dog.*

Inappropriate use of any equipment should be avoided as it can result in fearful and aggressive responses.

### 7.2 Safety equipment and personal protective equipment

Safety equipment and personal protective equipment should be provided as identified in the risk assessment and used to protect both the handler and detection dog.

The following equipment should be available:

- a) personal protective equipment appropriate to the deployment;
- b) canine first aid kit appropriate to the deployment;
- c) general first aid kit; and
- d) fire extinguisher of a suitable type.

### 7.3 Muzzle

Muzzles should be available at all times.

Detection dogs should not be worked in muzzles. However, muzzles should be available if required for the purpose of veterinary examination, emergency first aid and other operational requirements.

Where a muzzle is used, a suitable collar should be used appropriately, if applicable.

Muzzles should be inspected before and after use and should not be used if damaged.

A muzzled dog should be supervised at all times by a responsible person.

#### 7.4 Maintenance

The handler should check all equipment, including the first aid kit, for serviceability at the start of each duty. Equipment, including the first aid kit, should also be inspected once a month and records of this should be maintained.

Essential replacement equipment should be readily available to handlers.

#### 7.5 Uniform

Any uniform worn should be practical for the purposes of carrying out the duties of a handler. It should be appropriate for the working environment or weather conditions. Employee uniforms should clearly identify the individual as a security dog handler, unless otherwise requested by the client.

*NOTE Further guidance on uniforms is given in BS 7499:2013.*

#### 7.6 Identification

Handlers should carry identification in accordance with BS 7499:2013, 5.3.6.

*NOTE Contracted dog handling duties as covered by this British Standard are considered to be licensable activity, for which an SIA licence is required. Attention is drawn to the Private Security Act 2001 [1].*

#### 7.7 Records

Records of all equipment issued should be logged and retained with the handler's personnel records. Items should be signed for by the issuer and the receiver.

## 8 Training

### 8.1 General

The organization should have a documented training policy and should ensure that all training, whether in-house or external, is recorded and clearly defined. All training records should be signed by both the instructor/trainer and handler and the records made available to the handler for their retention.

Training should reflect operational conditions including, where possible, access to bulk quantities of target substances.

Organizations should employ training methods that are conducive to the detection dog's welfare.

Detection dogs and handlers should not be asked to undertake training without adequate rest periods or in environments that are not conducive to their health, safety and welfare.

## 8.2 Instructors/trainers

The organization should ensure that the instructor/trainer has:

- a) competence in the relevant licensable sector (e.g. security guarding and/or door supervision) as defined by the industry regulator;

*NOTE 1 The SIA (Security Industry Authority) is the industry regulator.*

- b) a relevant, accredited teaching qualification;

*NOTE 2 The qualification may be as defined by the industry regulator or the equivalent military or police instructor qualifications.*

- c) undertaken role-specific CPD (continuing professional development) to ensure that they have current knowledge of materials and their relevance to detection;
- d) competence in the knowledge of and the handling and storage of all training materials to ensure safety and to ensure that there is no compromise of odour, cross-contamination, authenticity and prevention of contamination;
- e) competent knowledge of the theory of scent and environmental effects, and a current knowledge of the appropriate discipline's scents; and
- f) a current, proven background in the handling and training of detection dogs in the discipline being trained.

*NOTE 3 Detection dog training is to have been undertaken within the previous three years.*

## 8.3 Induction training

The organization should provide induction training in matters related to conditions of employment and organizational procedures for all detection dog handlers. This induction training should be additional to the basic job training described in 8.4. Induction training should be completed before the handler is appointed to an assignment.

*NOTE The content and duration of induction training are left to the discretion of the organization.*

Records of induction training should be retained with the handler's personnel records.

## 8.4 Basic job training

The organization should ensure that all detection dog handlers have completed either the basic job training in the core duties of a security officer as defined in BS 7499 or the basic job training in the core duties of a door supervisor as defined in BS 7960 that underpin a detection dog handler's specialist role.

Records of basic job training should be retained with the handler's personnel records.

## 8.5 Handler training

In addition to the basic job training (see 8.4) handler training should include the following core elements and be of a sufficient duration to ensure competency in the chosen discipline of detection:

- a) the roles and responsibilities of a handler;
- b) the selection criteria for a detection dog;
- c) current legislation relating to the use of a detection dog;
- d) importance of securing and preserving evidence;

- e) the importance of customer care when using a detection dog;
- f) the importance of equality and diversity when using a detection dog;
- g) the requirements for the safe and effective storage, use and transport of training aids;
- h) the importance of continuation training;
- i) the control of a detection dog both on and off the leash;
- j) the preparation required prior to deployment;
- k) control of environment in which the detection dog is being used;
- l) control of access and egress of premises/area whilst handling a detection dog;
- m) understanding the use of appropriate equipment;
- n) understanding of progression training of a detection dog;
- o) deal with incidents caused by a detection dog;
- p) the health and well-being of a detection dog, handler and helper;
- q) the health and safety requirements for a detection dog, handler and helpers; and
- r) the recognition of signs of fatigue of a detection dog and the consequences on its effectiveness.

Documentary evidence of each element [a) to r)] of this training should be recorded and signed by the trainer and the handler.

During the first three months of employment, the competence of the handler should be assessed by a suitably qualified experienced supervisor or manager.

Records of handler training should be retained with the handler's personnel records.

## 8.6 Detection dog training

### 8.6.1 General

The detection dog should be trained to search/scan, locate and indicate targeted substances/scents.

Detection dogs trained in explosives detection should not be used for any other type of detection. Other detection dogs should not be used for explosives detection.

Detection dog training should include the following core elements and be of sufficient duration to ensure competency.

- a) Capable of searching efficiently in a variety of operationally relevant environments.
- b) Remains controllable and unaffected by reasonable distractions.
- c) Retains concentration within a working environment.
- d) Demonstrates confidence and remains calm and non-aggressive amongst people, other animals and in a variety of environments.
- e) Capable of indicating the presence of a target scent safely and appropriately.
- f) Physically capable of a sustained search.

Elements specific to the various roles are listed in 8.6.2 to 8.6.7.



Documentary evidence of each element [a) to f)] of this training should be recorded and signed by the trainer and the handler.

### 8.6.2 Passive (people scanning) drug detection

In addition to core elements (see 8.6.1) teams should be trained in the following scent-specific elements and the training should be of sufficient duration to ensure competency. Training should be a minimum of 100 hours and may include recognition of prior learning.

- a) Safely and efficiently work, attempting to locate the scent of controlled substances in the air around moving persons.
- b) Safely and efficiently work, attempting to locate the scent of controlled substances in the air around static persons.
- c) Safely and efficiently task a detection dog to scan persons to indicate the presence of controlled substances.
- d) The process and progression of training.
- e) Assist with third-party, police and multi-agency briefings.
- f) Recognize and understand types of drugs relating to controlled substances and their effects.
- g) Assist in the detention of persons with the aid of a detection dog when appropriate.
- h) Emergency procedures on the ingestion of drugs by a detection dog.

*NOTE 1 Attention is drawn to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 [9], the Misuse of Drugs and Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) (Amendment) (England, Wales and Scotland) Regulations 2014 [10] and the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 [11].*

*NOTE 2 "Controlled substance" is defined in the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 [9].*

### 8.6.3 Proactive (building, vehicle and open area) drug detection

In addition to core elements (see 8.6.1) teams should be trained in the following scent-specific elements and the training should be of sufficient duration to ensure competency. Training should be a minimum of 100 hours and may include recognition of prior learning.

- a) Safely and efficiently work, attempting to locate the scent of controlled substances during a search of a building and its contents.
- b) Safely and efficiently work, attempting to locate the scent of controlled substances during a search of a vehicle and its contents.
- c) Safely and efficiently work, attempting to locate the scent of controlled substances during a search of open terrain.
- d) Safely and efficiently indicate the presence of controlled substances.
- e) The process and progression of training.
- f) Assist with third-party, police and multi-agency briefings.
- g) Emergency procedures on the ingestion of drugs by a detection dog.

*NOTE "Controlled substance" is defined in the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 [9].*

### 8.6.4 Firearms and ammunition detection

In addition to core elements (see 8.6.1) teams should be trained in the following scent-specific elements and the training should be of sufficient duration to ensure competency. Training should be a minimum of 150 hours and may include recognition of prior learning.



- a) Safely and efficiently attempt to locate the presence of a firearm(s) during a search of a building and its contents.
- b) Safely and efficiently attempt to locate the presence of ammunition during a search of a building and its contents.
- c) Safely and efficiently attempt to locate the presence of a firearm(s) during a search of a vehicle and its contents.
- d) Safely and efficiently attempt to locate the presence of ammunition during a search of a vehicle and its contents.
- e) Safely and efficiently attempt to locate the presence of a firearms(s) during a search of open terrain.
- f) Safely and efficiently attempt to locate the presence of ammunition during a search of open terrain.
- g) Safely and efficiently indicate the presence of a firearms(s).
- h) Safely and efficiently indicate the presence of ammunition.
- i) The protocols to be observed following a positive find.
- j) The process and progression of training.
- k) Assist with third-party, police and multi-agency briefings.

*NOTE Attention is drawn to the Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997 [12].*

#### 8.6.5 Explosive materials detection

In addition to core elements (see 8.6.1) teams should be trained in the following scent-specific elements and the training should be of sufficient duration to ensure competency. Training should be a minimum of 150 hours and may include recognition of prior learning.

Handlers should be trained to have an awareness of commercial, military and homemade explosive threats.

- a) Safely and efficiently work, attempting to locate the presence of explosive material(s) during the search of a building and its contents.
- b) Safely and efficiently work, attempting to locate the presence of explosive material(s) during a search of a vehicle and its contents.
- c) Safely and efficiently work, attempting to locate the presence of explosive material(s) during a search of open terrain (including routes).
- d) Safely and efficiently indicate the presence of explosive material(s).
- e) The protocols to be observed following a positive find.
- f) The process and progression of training.
- g) Assist with third-party, police and multi-agency briefings.

*NOTE Attention is drawn to the Explosives Regulations 2014 [13] and the Control of Explosives Regulations 1991 [14].*

#### 8.6.6 Live person detection

In addition to core elements (see 8.6.1) teams should be trained in the following scent-specific elements and the training should be of sufficient duration to ensure competency. Training should be a minimum of 100 hours and may include recognition of prior learning.

- a) Safely and efficiently work, attempting to locate the presence of intentionally concealed persons during a search of a vehicle.

- b) Safely and efficiently indicate the presence of intentionally concealed person.
- c) The protocols to be observed following a positive indication.
- d) The process and progression of training.
- e) Assist with third party, police and multi-agency briefings.
- f) Recognize and understand potential locations of concealment.
- g) Assist in the detention of persons with the aid of a detection dog when appropriate.

### 8.6.7 Pyrotechnic detection

In addition to core elements (see 8.6.1) teams should be trained in the following scent-specific elements and the training should be of sufficient duration to ensure competency. Training should be a minimum of 100 hours and may include recognition of prior learning.

- a) Safely and efficiently work, attempting to locate the scent of pyrotechnics in the air around moving persons.
- b) Safely and efficiently work, attempting to locate the scent of pyrotechnics in the air around static persons.
- c) Safely and efficiently indicate the presence of pyrotechnics.
- d) The protocols to be observed following a positive indication.
- e) The process and progression of training.
- f) Assist with third party, police and multi-agency briefings.
- g) Recognize and understand types of pyrotechnics.
- h) Assist in the detection of persons with the aid of a detection dog when appropriate.

*NOTE Attention is drawn to the Pyrotechnic (Safety) Regulations 2015 [15].*

## 8.7 Team assessment

On completion of initial training (8.5 and 8.6) and annually thereafter the handler and the detection dog should be assessed and certificated as a team.

All assessments should be carried out using live/real substances.

Assessments should be carried out by independent sector competent persons who do not have an interest in the team passing the assessment and who can demonstrate that they have the necessary experience, knowledge and understanding of the substance for which the team are being assessed.

Documentary evidence of this assessment as a team should be recorded and signed by the assessor, trainer and handler.

Only teams assessed as operationally competent should be deployed.

A team should not be split to form a further team (re-team) without further successful assessment of competence. Training should be of sufficient duration to ensure competency.

The competence of all teams should be assessed independently as follows.

- a) Passive drug detection – quarterly.
- b) Proactive drug detection – quarterly.
- c) Firearms and ammunition detection – monthly.
- d) Explosive materials detection – monthly.

- e) Live person detection – quarterly.
- f) Pyrotechnic detection – quarterly.

Where a dog has missed a scheduled assessment, it should be successfully reassessed before returning to operational duties.

## 8.8 Continuation training

Continuation training should be used to maintain and advance the handlers' and detection dogs' knowledge and skills. All continuation training should be recorded and signed by both the handler and the trainer.

All teams should undertake monthly continuation training to ensure their efficiency, safety and control and identify any training needs should be recorded.

If, whilst undertaking training/assessment, a deficiency with implications for competency is identified, the detection dog or handler or team in question should be withdrawn from operational duties until the problem is rectified, and formally assessed and recorded as such.

## 8.9 Contingency training

Contingency training should be used to relay any changes in methods, procedures or legislation that might reflect in the handler's ability to carry out their duties. The organization should be able to demonstrate how this has been achieved.

*NOTE This training can be incorporated within continuation training.*

## 8.10 Record keeping

### 8.10.1 Training

Each team should have an individual training record containing the following details.

- a) Date, time and location training took place.
- b) Name of handler and name and microchip number of dog.
- c) Name of trainer.
- d) Type and amount of training aid used. A record should be maintained of training aid provenance.
- e) Record of hides (e.g. location, height, concealment).
- f) Length of training session.
- g) Type of training (e.g. vehicle, luggage, building, open area).
- h) Environmental and climatic conditions present.
- i) Performance of the team.
- j) Any deficiencies identified and action plan.

### 8.10.2 Assessment

Each team should have an individual assessment record containing the following details.

- a) Date, time and location assessment took place.
- b) Name and qualification of assessor.
- c) Type and amount of training aid used. A record should be maintained of training aid provenance.

- d) Record of licence holder and valid licence number for the licensed live/real substance(s) used during assessment.
- e) Record of hides (e.g. location, height, concealment).
- f) Length of session.
- g) Type of assessment (e.g. vehicle, luggage, building, open area).
- h) Record of indications.
- i) Environmental and climatic conditions present.
- j) Competency achieved.
- k) Any deficiencies identified and action plan.

## 9 Operational requirements

### 9.1 Operational capabilities

Whilst detection dogs are generally a reliable indicator of target substances it should be borne in mind that they are not infallible. Therefore, assessment should include variable conditions and amounts of live/real substance appropriate to the operational requirements of the potential client.

A current certificate of assessment and training records of the team should be made available for inspection on request by a client.

### 9.2 Operating instructions

Where deployed, written guidance should be provided by the organization to handlers in operating requirements and client requirements. This may be in the form of standard operating procedures and/or assignment instructions.

The guidance should contain:

- a) the location, description and extent of deployment including working hours;
- b) the agreed means of access, egress and their control;
- c) emergency procedures and lines of communication;
- d) availability of customer's facilities;
- e) accountability for and restrictions of actions;
- f) information on hazards, as identified during the risk assessment (see 9.3);  
*NOTE 1 Attention is drawn to the requirements of health and safety legislation regarding the provision of information on hazards.*
- g) the number of personnel involved in the deployment, and their individual duties and responsibilities, including:
  - 1) individual searching responsibilities;
  - 2) record keeping.
- h) protocols to be observed following an indication;
- i) arrangements for detection dog welfare; and
- j) list of emergency vets in the area.

*NOTE 2 This list is not exhaustive.*

### 9.3 Risk assessment

Prior to the deployment of any team, the organization should carry out a full risk assessment of the deployment. Risk assessments should take into account any substances and hazards that might cause harm to both detection dog and handler. The assessment should also include the hazards and dangers that might present themselves to people inside or outside of the perimeters of the deployment. Additionally, consideration should be given to property contained within the deployment, the commerce conducted and any person who might come in contact with the detection dog. Copies of risk assessments should be available to the handler while on-site.

A continuous dynamic risk assessment should be carried out by the handler during deployment. Any findings should be recorded and reported to management.

### 9.4 Welfare

The recommendations outlined in 6.2 should be adhered to at all times.

## 10 Transport and on-site vehicle kennelling

*NOTE 1 This clause applies to a vehicle or trailer used either for transport or to provide a kennelcage on-site. Where there is static on-site kennelling, refer to 5.2 and 5.3.*

*NOTE 2 Attention is drawn to the Transport of Animals Regulations 1/2005 [16] and the Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 2006 [17].*

### 10.1 Vehicles

Detection dogs should only be transported in vehicles which afford adequate protection against escape, or injury to the detection dog, handler and/or other person. The detection dog should be in an area separated from the driver.

The general equipment listed in 7.1 and the relevant safety equipment listed in 7.2 and 7.3 should be either carried by the handler or contained within the vehicle.

Vehicles should be fitted with a means to provide adequate ventilation and airflow at all times regardless of whether the vehicle is moving or stationary, and should provide sufficient shade from direct sunlight and protection from extremes of temperature or humidity.

### 10.2 Cages

The size of the detection dog should be taken into account when being placed in vehicle cages or within similar confinement. The dog should be able to stand up, turn around and lie down in comfort.

Vehicles should be fitted with suitable cages or other similar confinement to prevent escape. Cages should have non-slip flooring, which may be fitted or removable, and should be constructed of a material so as not to cause harm, discomfort or injury to the dog.

Consideration should be given to the design and location of the cage to reduce noise levels experienced by the driver/handler.

*NOTE Guidance on the construction of cages can be found in IATA (International Air Transport Association) document, Live Animals Regulations (LAR) [18].*

### 10.3 Means of escape

The detection dog compartment and cage(s) should have a second means of escape.

## 10.4 Warning signs

Warning signs should be displayed on all cage exits stating that a detection dog might be on board.

*NOTE Suggested wording could be "Security dogs. In case of emergency, seek expert assistance/call [insert contact number]".*

Vehicles should also display an external warning sign(s), except in exceptional operational circumstances.

## 10.5 Welfare

When left in the vehicle, detection dogs should be checked at least hourly by the handler to monitor their well-being.

A supply of fresh water should be carried within vehicles at all times. An emergency supply of food should also be carried.

The detection dog should receive appropriate rest periods for water and exercise.

During warm weather/extreme conditions, all necessary precautions should be taken to ensure that detection dogs do not become distressed (e.g. checks carried out more frequently).

## 10.6 Daily routine

Prior to any journey, the handler should inspect the vehicle, cage and fittings for serviceability.

The dog compartment and cages used during transport should be checked after use and cleaned as required with an appropriate disinfectant.

## 10.7 Transport of sick animals

Vehicles and cages used during the transport of sick animals should be cleaned after use, using DEFRA-approved disinfectant and procedures.

# 11 Sale or gift of detection dogs

### COMMENTARY ON CLAUSE 11

*This clause refers to the sale or gift of a trained or part-trained detection dog.*

Where an organization supplies a detection dog to a third party, the following recommendations apply:

a) the organization should satisfy themselves as to the identity of the recipient;

b) any known health and behavioural issues should be disclosed; and

*NOTE 1 Veterinary evidence might be required as verification.*

c) the organization should provide written evidence to support claims of training and pedigree made about the dog.

*NOTE 2 Attention is drawn to Sale of Goods Act 1979 [19].*

## Bibliography

### Standards publications

For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

BS 7960, *Door supervisors – Code of practice*

BS 8517-1, *Security dogs – Part 1: Code of practice for the use of general purpose security dogs*

### Other publications

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### Further reading

GREAT BRITAIN. Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. London: The Stationery Office.

GREAT BRITAIN. Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. London: The Stationery Office.





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