
Overview

This unit is about searching areas – premises and surrounding areas. The unit also covers carrying out rub-down searches and using electronic equipment to search people. Those with whom searches are being conducted may have special needs, be unco-operative and/or present varying levels of security risk. Also, they may have language or other communication difficulties.

There are two elements

- 1 Carry out rub-down and electronic searches
- 2 Search premises and surrounding areas

Target Group

This applies to operational staff who have to carry out straightforward searches as part of their duties.

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Search individuals, premises and surrounding areas

Performance criteria

Carry out rub-down and electronic searches

You must be able to:

- P1 make sure the conditions for the search meet legal and organisational requirements
- P2 ensure that any equipment being used is operational and correctly calibrated
- P3 identify and take appropriate action if there are communication difficulties
- P4 clearly inform individuals about the search procedure
- P5 ask individuals to declare any unauthorised items that they may have
- P6 search thoroughly and efficiently, applying the appropriate techniques
- P7 respect individuals' rights, dignity and comfort throughout the search
- P8 deal with unauthorised items according to legal and organisational requirements

Search premises and surrounding areas

You must be able to:

- P9 follow organisational procedures before and during searches
- P10 clearly define the search areas
- P11 Move or organize the transfer of individuals to a secure place for the duration of the search
- P12 identify and search areas and spaces with the potential for hiding unauthorised people, items and substances
- P13 obtain and use expert assistance as required to access potential hiding places
- P14 select and use search equipment appropriate to the areas being searched
- P15 deal with unauthorised items and substances according to organisational procedures
- P16 complete all relevant records and documentation accurately, in accordance with organisational procedures
- P17 maintain confidentiality regarding the search and the location

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the legal and organisational requirements for carrying out searches of people, areas and property
- K2 the types of unidentified and unauthorised items that you may find during searches, how to recognise these and the organisational procedures for dealing with them
- K3 the documentation that needs to be completed, and how to do so correctly
- K4 the correct conditions for searching individuals, for example same sex searching, when authorisation may be needed, having other personnel present, distance from other individuals etc
- K5 why you should inform the individual about the search procedure and how to do this
- K6 how to carry out a rub-down search correctly and what its limitations are
- K7 how to use an electronic search equipment correctly and what its limitations are
- K8 how to deal with unauthorised individuals according to organisational procedures and with respect for their rights
- K9 how to deal with correspondence and written materials claimed to be confidential
- K10 why you should ask the individual to declare any unauthorised items
- K11 methods that can be used to hide items about the body and in clothing and footwear
- K12 how to carry out a rub-down search correctly and with due respect for the individual's rights, dignity and comfort
- K13 your organisation's health and safety procedures for searching premises and surrounding areas
- K14 your organisation's health and safety procedures for searching individuals
- K15 why it is important to define the search area, and how to do so
- K16 why it is important to move individuals to a secure area for the duration of searches, and how to do so
- K17 the types of search equipment you may need to search premises and surrounding areas, and how to obtain suitable equipment
- K18 the types of areas and spaces that may be used to conceal people, items and substances, and how to identify and search these effectively
- K19 types of expert assistance you may require for access and organisational procedures for obtaining this
- K20 how to identify what problems individuals have with language and communication

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