

Overview

This standard is about searching individuals in a custodial environment including rub-down searches and using electronic equipment to search. Those with whom searches are being conducted may have additional needs, be uncooperative and present varying levels of security risk. Also, they may have language or other communication difficulties.

This standard is also about searching areas which include premises, accommodation and surrounding areas using organisational procedures.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

P1 check conditions for searches are in accordance with legal requirements and your organisation's procedures

P2 check equipment being used is operational and in line with manufacturer's guidelines

P3 report communication difficulties with individuals in accordance with your organisation's procedures

P4 take action to resolve communication difficulties in accordance with your organisation's procedures

P5 deal with individuals in accordance with their rights and your organisation's procedures, including:

P5.1 uncooperative individuals

P6 inform individuals about search procedures, and:

P6.1 check their understanding of these searches

P7 ask individuals to declare any unauthorised items that they may have in accordance with your organisation's procedures

P8 search individuals applying relevant search techniques in accordance with your organisation's procedures

P9 deal with unauthorised items in accordance with legal requirements and your organisation's procedures

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 legal requirements and organisational procedures for searching individuals and areas
- K2 types of unauthorised finds that may be found during searches
- K3 procedures for dealing with unauthorised finds
- K4 records concerning searches and how to complete them
- K5 conditions for searching individuals, including:
 - K5.1 same sex searches
 - K5.2 authorisation that may be required
 - K5.3 having other personnel present
 - K5.4 distance from other individuals
- K6 why you should inform individuals about search procedures and how to do this
- K7 range of search techniques used by your organisation
- K8 when it is necessary to search people or areas
- K9 how to carry out a rub-down search and what its limitations are
- K10 how to use electronic search equipment in line with manufacturer's guidelines and what its limitations are
- K11 how to carry out a full body search with due regard to individuals' dignity
- K12 different types of accommodation that may be searched
- K13 how to deal with unauthorised individuals
- K14 how to deal with materials found during searches which are claimed to be confidential
- K15 the reasons to ask individuals to declare any unauthorised items
- K16 how searching is applied to religious items and legal correspondence
- K17 methods used to hide items about the body, clothing and footwear
- K18 how to carry out a rub-down search with due respect for individuals
- K19 how to apply the most appropriate method of searching to all individuals
- K20 your organisation's health and safety procedures for searching individuals and areas
- K21 the importance of defining search areas and how to do so
- K22 the importance of moving individuals to secure areas during searches and how to do so
- K23 types of search equipment and how to obtain these

K24 the types of areas used to conceal people, items and substances, and how to search these

K25 the types of expert assistance you may require for access and how to obtain this

K26 how to identify problems individuals have with language and communication

K27 how to deal with uncooperative individuals

K28 how to assess risk in searches

K29 how to deal with individuals' additional needs

Glossary

Relevant people can refer to individuals, others relevant or significant to individuals, staff in your own agency including investigating teams or staff from other agencies.

Searching individuals refers to carrying out rub-down searches and full-body searches as well as conducting searches with electronic equipment.

Searching areas refers to searching all areas within an establishment including the premises, accommodation areas and surrounding areas.

Organisational procedures can include prison service instructions, prison policies, legislative policies and any other policies and procedures used across custodial care in the UK.

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