

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This part of BS 8517 supersedes BS 8517-2:2010, which is withdrawn.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

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 8517-3.¹⁾

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

¹⁾ 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.