

Dated: 20 February 2017

- To:
1. All NSI Guarding Gold and Silver Companies who are approved for the Provision of Detection Dogs.
 2. Applicant Companies who wish to gain approval for the above scope.

TECHNICAL BULLETIN No: 37

Guidance on the implementation of BS 8517-2:2016, the British Standard Code of Practice for the use detection dogs

(Supersedes BS 8517-2:2010)

BS 8517-2:2016 shows a publication date of the 30th September 2016 and is available through licensed outlets including NSI who can supply copies at a discounted rate. The new standard supersedes BS 8517-2:2010, which has been withdrawn.

BS 8517-2 identifies recommendations for the provision of Detection Dogs. Organisations that demonstrate compliance with BS 8517-2:2016, and also satisfy the relevant NSI criteria for approval, will be approved for the following scopes, depending on the service provided:

"Provision of Detection Dogs"

The 2016 edition will now be applied to all NSI approval schemes where the criteria for approval require compliance with BS 8517-2 as a condition of NSI approval. The Code of Practice will be applied with immediate effect, subject to the additional clarifications and guidance contained within this Technical Bulletin.

Implementation timescale for Applicant Companies

Applicant Companies will be audited against the 2016 edition with immediate effect and any Improvement Needs recorded against clauses of the Code of Practice will have to be satisfactorily addressed before approval can be granted.

Implementation timescale for existing Approved Companies

Companies holding NSI approval to BS 8517-2:2010 will be expected to comply with BS 8517-2:2016 by 30 September 2017.

Note regarding the status of BS 8517-2:2016

Although issued as a code of practice by the British Standards Institution, it is important to note that compliance with the recommendations given in BS 8517-2:2016 is regarded as mandatory for all companies wishing to maintain an NSI approval; subject to any additional clarifications and guidance included within this Technical Bulletin or issued subsequently.

The recommendations given in BS 8517-2:2016 must therefore be regarded as requirements in relation to NSI approval for the Provision of Detection Dogs.

Details of the changes

Highlighted under the clauses of the new Standard

Comments under each clause of BS 8517-2:2016 detail the changes when compared with the corresponding clause within BS 8517-2:2010.

Where the actual wording of the standard is quoted it is reproduced in bold text.

Where it is considered relevant to further clarify the specified requirement, additional guidance is included in italics.

We will consider alternative methods of achieving compliance with specified requirements where these can be demonstrated to be equivalent.

Title

The title of the standard remains the same.

Contents

The heading for Clause 5 has changed from kennelling/husbandry to accommodation/husbandry, which acknowledges that dogs can be accommodated in both kennels and a domestic environment.

The heading for Clause 10 has changed from transport and on-site kennelling, to transport and onsite vehicle kennelling. This reflects the fact that most sites will not have kennel facilities, so the dog will be housed within a kennel/cage within the vehicle or trailer.

Foreword

Publishing information

BS 8517-2:2016 was prepared by Panel GW/3/-/15, Security dog users under the authority of Technical Committee GW/3, Private Security Management & Services. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

Supersession

Confirms that BS 8517-2:2016 now supersedes BS 8517-2:2010 which is withdrawn.

Information about this document

The Foreword states that the 2016 edition **is a full revision of BS 8517-2, which has been updated to aid the understanding of the recommendations and reflect current practice.**

Use of this document

No change except the removal of the below statement.

It has been assumed in the preparation of this British Standard that the execution of its provisions will be entrusted to appropriately qualified and experienced people, for whose use it has been produced.

Presentational conventions

The following guidance paragraph has been added to presentational conventions:

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

No change.

1 Scope

Additional content has been added to the body of the Scope to include: pyrotechnics, intentionally concealed persons, records, kennelling/husbandry, dog health and welfare, equipment and clothing, training and operational requirements.

The additional notes clarify the following references or recommendations:

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

Largely unchanged with regard to the British Standards that **in whole or in part, normatively referenced** within BS 8517-2.

3 Terms and definitions

An update and new elements have been added to terms and definitions to reflect current practices. They include:

The notes remain unchanged but it is worthy of note that there were numerous changes to the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in 2014.

The key areas of change came into effect in May 2014 and are summarised as follows:

- *Extension of section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act to apply to ALL places*
- *The extension of section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act to apply to assistance dogs*
- *Extended rights of seizure*
- *Increased sentencing*
- *Courts' new assessment in deciding whether a dog is a danger to public safety*
- *Civil Proceedings*

NEW

3.8 Scent

Chemical particles or vapour detected by a dog

NOTE Also referred to as "odour".

NEW

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.

NEW

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

NEW

3.11 Subcontracted service

Provision of services on behalf of a principal contractor

NEW

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.

AMENDED

3.13 Team

Identifiable handler and detection dog that are trained together to undertake detection duties

Simplified wording but the same meaning.

4 Administration

4.1 General

No change.

4.2 Subcontracted services

This is a new sub-clause and covers the normal subcontractor due diligence elements that are covered in other British Standards.

The organization should obtain the customer's agreement on conditions for the use of subcontracted service providers for undertaking the duties of security 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

This is another new sub-clause and similarly provides guidance on the use of 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 insurance requirements are now much more prescriptive and this clause now reads:

The organization should be adequately insured in accordance with BS 7499:2013, and the insurance should 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

A few slight changes to the content of this clause with additional elements now being included in the content of each dog's individual record.

NEW

e) Breed/cross-breed

NEW

h) Neuter status

NEW

i) Photograph(s) (adequate for identification)

NEW

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

NEW

l) Written veterinary confirmation of fitness for duty (see 6.1)

The note added with regard to the microchipping at point J) covers the law change which came into effect from the 6th of April 2016, and states that all dogs must be microchipped and registered to an approved database by the time they are 8 weeks old.

The final paragraph regarding records has more detail and emphasises the retention periods for dog records be subject to review.

Records should be kept for 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

A slight change with the inclusion of the word **Minimum** for the period that records of dogs and handlers assignments should be retained. The previous edition only required records to be kept for three years.

An accurate record should be kept for a minimum of three years of both dogs' and handlers' work assignments.

4.7 Health and safety

More prescriptive requirements have been added to both the organisations health and safety policy statement and risk assessments. The clause now reads:

Organizations should ensure that their health and safety policy statement includes kennelling, training and operational deployment.

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 dog.

5 Accommodation/husbandry

A commentary has been added to this clause to clarify the accommodation of dogs and reads:

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

No change

5.1.2 Kennels

5.1.2.1 Construction and siting

Slight changes to the content of this clause with the construction of the kennel being so that to ensure that it is also free from the **Extremes of temperature** as well as damp and draughts.

The previous editions note has been removed and a new paragraph inserted to cover dogs that are not housed within a kennel.

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

No change

5.1.2.3 Size

No change

5.1.2.4 Isolation

No change

5.2 Hygiene

A few changes with two elements being changed from the previous edition.

For drain cleaning, Defra approved disinfectant has been replaced with an **appropriate disinfectant** and the amount of water used for cleaning during current weather conditions has been removed.

The following paragraph has been added to cover dogs not housed within kennels:

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)

No change

5.4 Emergency and evacuation procedures for kennels

5.4.1 General

A new sub-clause to provide an overview of the required emergency and evacuation procedures for both kennelled and non-kennelled dogs.

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

No real changes apart from neighbour has been removed as one of the appropriate methods for raising the alarm.

5.4.3 Fire

Minor change in that the fire risk assessment should be carried out just for kennelling facilities and not premises as well which was covered in the previous edition.

6 Health and welfare of the dog

No changes.

6.1 General

Minor change with an additional sentence introduced to cover vaccinations and parasite prevention treatments.

Consideration should be given to vaccinations and parasite prevention treatments (e.g. fleas and worms).

The previously recorded points on grooming and daily inspections have been moved to 6.3 and a new sentence has been added to cover a specific risk to certain detection dog disciplines:

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

This element should form part of any risk assessment for both training and operations and as such, the necessary control measures should be in place to mitigate or reduce the potential for this to happen.

6.2 Responsibility

This clause was originally under kennelling/husbandry in the previous edition and emphasises the responsibility for the welfare of the dog at all times.

An additional paragraph added further enforces this concept and reads:

The welfare of the 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

More specific detail has been added to this clause with practices from other areas of the 2010 edition being bracketed under the one heading.

The key changes are as follows:

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

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

6.4 Food and water

Apart from the heading change with the addition of water, there are no real changes to the content of the clause.

6.5 Rest and exercise

Slight changes with the removal of the detection dog reference with regard to safety and unrestricted exercise. The paragraph now leaves the broader safety concept in situ which acknowledges all potential safety implications not just with the detection dog.

The note on this clause has also had an update and the additional Dangerous Dog Act legislation 1991 has been added as a reference.

NOTE Attention is drawn to the Working Time Directive 2003/88/EC [6], the Animal Welfare Act 2006 [4], the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 [5] and the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 [2].

6.6 End of service

Subtle changes to this clause, with the term disposal being removed from the equivalent clause heading in the 2010 edition.

An additional statement has been added to the existing paragraph regarding the potential euthanasia of the dog and this should be a consideration:

Where appropriate on grounds of health and safety and welfare

A new note has been added which provides a reference within the standard for the sale or gift of dogs:

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

7 Equipment and clothing

7.1 General equipment

There are only slight modifications to this clause in terms of more explicit equipment requirements.

The collar now needs to have a strong **welded** "D" clip, as opposed to just a strong 'D' clip.

Points b & c have both been amended:

b) strong lead with hand loop.

c) suitable search harness.

In terms of equipment and cross contamination the previous requirement for all listed equipment to be unique to each dog has been replaced with just **collars and muzzles**.

The Emphasis was previously on any equipment for misuse or harsh use but the paragraph now accentuates the collar and reads as follows:

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

A new note has also been added to further reinforce the above element:

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

7.2 Safety equipment and personal protective equipment

No changes.

7.3 Muzzle

Additional elements introduced here with greater direction being given on the availability and use of muzzles from both a welfare and safety perspective.

- Muzzles are now required to be **available at all times**.
- **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 only slight change is that the previous requirement for handler equipment checks to be conducted by a member of supervisory staff has been removed. The onus is now on the handler to check all of his dog equipment and maintain the necessary records.

7.5 Uniform

The requirements of this clause have been enhanced slightly and a new note has now been added to reference further guidance.

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

Company identification card requirements remain extant but a new note has been included providing more specific guidance on the where contracted dog handling sits and the respective licensing requirements.

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

Minor word change with the requirements for equipment issue records to be logged and **retained with the handler's personnel records**. The previous stipulation just required them to be logged and filed.

8 Training

8.1 General

There are two changes to this sub-clause with training records now also having to be **made available to the handlers for their retention** and **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**.

The latter requirement further reinforces the welfare aspects covered in clause 6.

8.2 Instructors/trainers

There are numerous changes to the requirements for instructors / trainers.

The order of the notes has changed and an additional note has been added which is detailed below (Note 2).

The content of the previous point b) has been reduced but the additional guidance is now covered in the new note and reads:

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.

Point d) requirements have been supplemented for handling and storage of training materials with the inclusion of knowledge and safety aspects.

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.

Point e) has been paraphrased and now reads:

e) competent knowledge of the theory of scent and environmental effects, and a current knowledge of the appropriate discipline's scents.

Point f) has also been adapted and the requirements are more definitive:

f) a current, proven background in the handling and training of detection dogs in the discipline being trained.

8.3 Induction training

Two alterations within this clause and they relate to a change in terminology and record control in line with the previous clause 7.7.

Employees has been replaced with **detection dog handlers** for the organisations responsibilities for induction training.

As detailed above the following requirement has been added:

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

8.4 Basic job training

This clause has had a complete overhaul with none of the existing requirements remaining.

The stipulations are now more compendious and focus on the British Standard requirements in BS 7499 and BS 7960.

The clause now reads:

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

The majority of the 2010 core elements remain extant with some minor changes and an additional core element has been added to the handler competency requirements.

The core element regarding the storage of training aids has been enhanced and now emphasises **safe and effective** and reads as follows:

g) The requirements for the safe and effective storage, use and transport of training aids.

The new core element is detailed below:

r) The recognition of signs of fatigue of a detection dog and the consequences on its effectiveness.

Record requirements for handler training remain in line with the new standard and reads:

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

8.6 Detection dog training

8.6.1 General

Only one minor change with the word odour being replaced with **scent** in the context of what the detection dog is able to locate and indicate on.

8.6.2 Passive (people scanning) drug detection

The heading of this clause has changed slightly and now includes **people scanning** in brackets to provide more clarification on this discipline.

The most significant change in this clause is with a specific minimum training timescale now being stipulated for this discipline:

Training should be a minimum of 100 hours and may include recognition of prior learning.

Although the scent-specific training elements remain largely the same, point c) has been reworded and now reads:

c) Safely and efficiently task a detection dog to scan persons to indicate the presence of controlled substances.

Note 1 has been updated and has had additional legislation added and now reads:

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].

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

The heading of this clause has changed slightly and now includes **building, vehicle and open area** in brackets to provide more elucidation.

As with 8.6.2 the most significant change in this clause is with a specific minimum training timescale now being stipulated for this discipline:

Training should be a minimum of 100 hours and may include recognition of prior learning.

There are also subtle word changes to the detailed scent specific elements with **work** being added to safely and efficiently and for searches of buildings and vehicles the **contents** of both of these have been now included.

8.6.4 Firearms and ammunition detection

The heading of this clause has changed from the generic title weapons recovery to the above more specific discipline and this is also reflected in terminology within the core elements.

As with previous training disciplines the most significant change in this clause is with a specific minimum training timescale now being stipulated for this discipline:

Training should be a minimum of 150 hours and may include recognition of prior learning.

Within the core elements **firearms** replaces weapons and for each search type / location the requirements have been broadened and there is now a separate core element for locating the **presence of ammunition**.

8.6.5 Explosive materials detection

The heading of this clause has changed slightly with the addition of **detection**.

As with previous training disciplines the most significant change in this clause is with a specific minimum training timescale now being stipulated for this discipline:

Training should be a minimum of 150 hours and may include recognition of prior learning.

An additional training awareness requirement has been added and reads:

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

As with 8.6.3 **work** has now being added to safely and efficiently for the search discipline and searches of buildings and vehicles now also include their **contents**.

Open terrain searches now also **include routes** which is another type of search specific to this discipline.

Legislation references in the note have been updated to the following:

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

8.6.6 Live person detection

NEW clause

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) Safety 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.**

This is a totally new clause introduced to cover this specialised search discipline. The use of live person detection has most notably been in operation at border controls in France to combat illegal migrants. This specialisation is not to be confused with Cadaver or Human Remains Detection, where dogs are trained to locate buried or concealed human remains.

8.6.7 Pyrotechnic detection

NEW clause

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) Safety 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].

This is a totally new clause introduced to cover this specialised search discipline. The use of pyrotechnic detection dogs has come to the fore in recent years after an increase in their use at football grounds. Being in possession or attempting to bring a pyrotechnic device into a sporting event is a criminal offence and the dogs are used proactively and as a visible deterrent at points of entry and on the concourses.

8.7 Team assessment

Significant changes to this clause from 2010.

There is now an enhanced requirement for the team not only to be assessed annually but to be **certificated** as well.

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.

Certification to be undertaken by an approved body.

The former requirement not to split the team into a further team without an additional assessment for competence remains but the word **re-team** has been introduced in brackets, which means to put dog and handler together to form a new team.

In the context of re-teams the new standard reinforces this point further:

Training should be of sufficient duration to ensure competency.

This is an additional safeguard so that non-competent teams are not being deployed on operations.

A whole new piece defining the assessment timescales for each search discipline has also been introduced and is detailed below:

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

This clause was formerly refresher and continuation training and although the content is very similar it has been rearranged.

Maintain has been added as an objective of continuation training in terms of knowledge and skills.

The recording of continuation training is now more specific and requires that:

All continuation training should be recorded and signed by both the handler and the trainer.

With regard to the identification of shortfalls during training or an **assessment** (new) the standard previously stated where a serious training deficiency was identified but this has been removed and just highlights a deficiency with implications for competency.

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

No changes to the previous content but the standard now requires the organisation to be able to do the following regarding contingency training:

The organization should be able to demonstrate how this has been achieved.

This can be achieved through records of a respective continuation training programme or handler training records incorporating the change in method, process, legislation or a scent.

As the term refresher training has been removed from the standard the note in this clause now reads:

NOTE This training can be incorporated within continuation training.

8.10 Record keeping

8.10.1 Training

Minor changes to the contents of individual training records.

NEW

A record should be maintained of training aid provenance.

This relates to ownership of the training aids being utilised dependant on the search discipline.

NEW

j) Any deficiencies identified and action plan.

This reinforces continuation training elements.

8.10.2 Assessment

Minor changes to the contents of individual assessment records.

The **qualification** of the assessor now needs to be specified, where previously it was just their name.

NEW

A record should be maintained of training aid provenance.

As above this relates to ownership of the training aids being utilised dependant on the search discipline.

NEW

e) Record of hides (e.g. location, height, concealment).

NEW

k) Any deficiencies identified and action plan.

This reinforces continuation training elements.

9 Operational requirements

9.1 Operational capabilities

No change.

9.2 Operating instructions

No change

9.3 Risk assessment

Two changes to this clause.

The word consideration has been replaced with account with regard to operational risk assessment requirements.

Risk assessments should take into account any substances and hazards that might cause harm to both detection dog and handler.

Copies of risk assessments should be available to the handler while on-site.

Where previously it stated that risk assessments should be appendices to assignment instructions, there is now a clearer requirement as an assumption was made that assignment instructions would be on site, which may have not always been the case.

Copies of risk assessments should be available to the handler while on-site.

9.4 Welfare

No change just a referral to the responsibility clause.

10 Transport and on-site vehicle kennelling

No changes to the existing reference notes.

10.1 Vehicles

Minor changes to this clause with general and safety equipment listed in earlier clauses also being able to be carried by the handler, as well as held within the vehicle.

Vehicle ventilation requirements have been slightly enhanced and the respective sentence now reads:

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.

10.2 Cages

More detailed content has been introduced with an amalgamation of certain elements from 10.5 Welfare in the 2009 edition.

The size of the 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.

Additional specifications have now been added to the cages:

Cages should have non-slip flooring, which may be fitted or removable.

And

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

This adds an additional factor for deliberation to the existing requirement that **the dog should be in an area separated from the driver.**

10.3 Means of escape

No changes.

10.4 Warning signs

This clause has been updated slightly with warning signs on cage exits to state **that a dog might be on board.**

A new note has been added which provides guidance on suggested wording for cage warning signs:

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

The external vehicle sign requirements remain extant but with the exception being only **in exceptional operational circumstances** as opposed to unless operationally required.

10.5 Welfare

This clause has had an overhaul with the emphasis for monitoring of the dogs welfare when within the vehicles being highlighted initially.

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

Dogs receiving proper rest periods has been replaced with **appropriate rest periods** and **extreme conditions** have been introduced in addition to warm weather as a potential welfare risk, as heat is not the only condition that could cause a dog to be distressed.

The new standard requires that:

All necessary precautions should be taken to ensure that dogs do not become distressed (e.g. checks carried out more frequently).

10.6 Daily routine

The requirements have been condensed with pre-journey checks remaining but with checks of the dog compartment / cages to now be incorporated post use and cleaned **as required with an appropriate disinfectant.**

10.7 Transport of sick animals

This is a new clause and reads:

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

This clause is now a commentary and the listed guidance points are now recommendations.

However, the main content and requirements remain the same; apart from the element detailed below:

When selling or gifting a trained or part-trained detection dog, **any known health and behavioural issues should be disclosed.**

Bibliography

Standards publications

No changes.

Other publications

The following publications are updated or additions to the Bibliography:

[3] UNITED KINGDOM. Microchipping of Dogs Regulations 2014. London: The Stationery Office.

[6] EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES. 2003/88/EC. Directive 2003/88/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 November 2003 concerning certain aspects of the organisation of working time. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 2003.

[10] GREAT BRITAIN. Misuse of Drugs and Misuse of Drugs (Safe Custody) (Amendment) (England, Wales and Scotland) Regulations 2014. London: The Stationery Office.

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Further reading

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