



Security Industry Authority

---

# Knowledge and Skills Specification: Security Guarding

**This document was published in February 2021.  
The requirements set out within it take effect on 1 April 2021.**

## Foreword

The Security Industry Authority (SIA) recognises that it is essential for security personnel to have undergone a structured programme of learning and education resulting in recognised qualifications if they are to be effective and professional in their role. Increasingly, industry stakeholders also recognise that the individuals who work to provide a more secure leisure environment must have a broad range of skills and a clear understanding of their role. As the scope, diversity and importance of their work continues to grow, so the degree of professionalism expected from security personnel will increase.

This document is intended to provide a clear specification on the approach that has been agreed by the SIA and industry stakeholders in relation to the core learning and resulting qualifications required by SIA licensing.

## Section 1: Learning programme overview

Training leading to an SIA licence-linked qualification for security guards must include the following areas:

- Session 1: Roles and responsibilities
- Session 2: Access and egress control
- Session 3: Electronic and physical protection systems
- Session 4: Personal safety
- Session 5: Drugs awareness
- Session 6: Searching
- Session 7: Patrolling

## Section 2: Learning programme details

### Session 1: Roles and responsibilities

**Aim:**

To understand the key roles and responsibilities of security guards.

**Objectives:**

By the end of this session learners will be able to:

- identify different security officer roles within the private security industry
- outline the main responsibilities of a security officer in the various security officer roles
- describe the benefits and functions of a control room

## **Session 2: Access and egress control**

### ***Aim:***

Understand the control of and responsibilities relating to access and egress.

### ***Objectives:***

By the end of this session learners will be able to:

- define the responsibilities and purpose of access and egress control
- describe typical duties relating to access and egress control of people including statutory agencies, vehicles, premises and property
- explain the powers and identification requirements of statutory agencies relating to access and egress control.
- understand common methods used by people attempting to gain unauthorised access
- describe the requirement for and importance of queue control

### **Session 3: Electronic and physical protection systems**

***Aim:***

To identify the different types of electronic and physical protection systems in the security environment.

***Objectives:***

By the end of this session learners will be able to:

- explain how electronic and physical protection systems can support the security officer role
- state the purposes of the different types of electronic and physical protection systems
- describe potential risks to electronic and physical protection systems
- list the actions that may be taken in response to different types of alarm activations

## **Session 4: Personal safety**

### **Aim:**

Understand how to improve the safety of yourself and others.

### **Objectives:**

By the end of this session learners will be able to:

- identify responsibilities for personal safety at work
- identify situations that might compromise personal safety
- identify the risks of ignoring personal safety in conflict situations
- state the personal safety benefits of undertaking dynamic risk assessment
- list ways to minimise risk to personal safety at work
- recognise the different types of personal protective equipment relevant to the role of a security officer
- state the purpose of using body-worn cameras (BWC)
- identify strategies that can assist personal safety in conflict situations
- describe limits of their own responsibility in physical intervention situations
- identify types of harm that can occur during physical interventions
- identify the personal safety advantages of mental alertness at work
- state the benefits of reflecting on personal safety experiences

## **Session 5: Drugs awareness**

### ***Aim:***

To know drugs and drug abuse.

### ***Objectives:***

By the end of this session learners will be able to:

- recognise the signs and symptoms of drug use
- identify the signs that may indicate drug dealing
- state how to dispose of drug related litter and contaminated waste



## **Session 6: Searching**

### ***Aim:***

To know how to search appropriately and lawfully.

### ***Objectives:***

By the end of this session learners will be able to:

- identify the different types of searches carried out by a security officer
- explain a security officer's right of search
- identify different types of searching equipment
- state the possible hazards that might be encountered when conducting a search
- state the precautions to take when conducting a search
- state what actions to take if an accident or incident occurs during searching
- demonstrate how to search people and their property
- state typical areas of vehicles to be searched
- identify reasons for carrying out a premises search
- state the actions which may need to be taken in the event of a refusal to be searched
- identify reasons for completing search documentation
- identify actions to take if a prohibited or restricted item is found during a search

## **Session 7: Patrolling**

### **Aim:**

To know and understand how to patrol designated areas safely.

### **Objectives:**

By the end of this session learners will be able to:

- state the importance of patrolling
- identify the different types of patrol which may be used
- explain patrolling procedures
- identify how to communicate effectively using relevant equipment
- demonstrate effective use of communication devices
- state the importance of check calls
- state how to respond to incidents, including illegal activity and trespass
- state reasons for recording and preserving crime scenes
- state actions to take to preserve evidence after an incident
- identify circumstances when a security officer should call the police