



Security Practice Guidance

ACCOMMODATION FABRIC CHECKS (Security Managers, Deputy Governors & Governors)

August 2021



PURPOSE

To support establishments in their recovery journey and help Security Managers, Deputy Governors and Governors prepare for easing of restrictions with regards to Accommodation Fabric Checks (AFCs).



LEARNING

Following the outbreak of COVID-19, prisons have experienced significant disruptions to regimes and ways of working, requiring adaptations to policy and practice.

Staff from operational and other professions have shared concerns about the potential **loss of knowledge and experience in conducting basic, and key, security tasks**. An extended period of change appears to have caused uncertainty around how procedures should be applied and what they will look like as we move through the stages of recovery and return to a 'new normal'.



REFRESHING AND MAINTAINING PRACTICE

Understand and assess your **STATE OF SECURITY**:

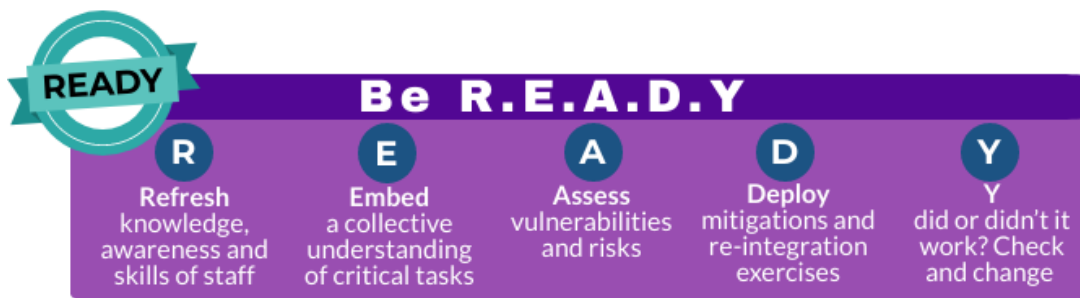
- Consider the impact of your new regime on your Local Security Strategy. **PROCEDURAL**
- Assess the level and frequency of AFCs required under your new regime to maintain safety and security. **PROCEDURAL**
- Factor in potential increased risks resulting from limited staff access to cells during restricted regimes and any increase in prisoners' ability to access or conceal contraband. Consider how best to deploy resources and if areas need to be targeted. **PROCEDURAL CAPABILITY**
- Ensure staff are fully briefed in any changes to local arrangements and before starting the regime. **CAPABILITY**
- Ensure staff are aware of and can apply national searching procedures effectively. Consider holding local refresher sessions for AFCs and accommodation searches using unoccupied cells, where available, and training for searches of the person, using the step-by-step guides in the PSI. **PROCEDURAL CAPABILITY**
- Consider pairing a more experienced member of staff with one less experienced in AFCs to promote learning and confidence. **CAPABILITY STRATEGIC INTEGRATION**
- Complete regular assurance checks to ensure staff are competent in their duties, are complying with policy, or if further guidance is needed. **PROCEDURAL CAPABILITY**



- Ensure on completion of duties, staff are competent in documenting and recording they have completed their AFCs. Consider if including in briefings would be beneficial. **PROCEDURAL CAPABILITY INTELLIGENCE**
- Ensure any suspect items or damages are recorded correctly via the IRS system. This may be the first check staff have conducted in a while and a refresher in the start to end process may be useful. **PROCEDURAL CAPABILITY INTELLIGENCE**

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Searching Policy Framework



Issued by

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Security, Order and Counter-Terrorism Directorate