

Knowledge and Skills Specification: Physical Intervention Skills for Close Protection Operatives Refresher Training

This document was published in August 2025.

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.

This ensures that close protection operatives have the appropriate knowledge and skills to help reduce risk of harm to themselves and others while performing their security role. Training and assessment in this area must be conducted with reference to the document 'Application of Physical Intervention Skills for Close Protection Operatives in the Private Security Industry Refresher', which is available on request from awarding organisations offering the close protection qualification. It provides definitions for some of the terms used in this document.

As a pre-requisite to taking the physical intervention skills course, learners must have completed the Level 3 Award for Close Protection Operatives in the Private Security Industry

This specification has been developed in conjunction with industry experts.

Training providers wishing to deliver the course in physical intervention skills must be approved by an SIA endorsed awarding organisation. They must also be aware of the additional quality requirements that must be obtained by any training provider delivering this course, including:

- the need to deliver only a programme of training that has been approved by the awarding organisation
- the need to use only those trainers appropriately qualified to deliver physical interventions skills, as defined by the awarding organisation
- the need to meet additional centre approval requirements, over and above those normally operated by the SIA endorsed awarding organisation

Training providers should refer to an SIA endorsed awarding organisation for this information.

This specification details the physical intervention knowledge and skills close protection operatives need to apply for a licence. Achieving the qualification does not remove their obligation to act in accordance with the law regarding the use of force. In this regard, a close protection operative has the same rights as a private individual and no more.

Employers are legally obliged to ensure the safety and security of customers and employees. Conducting a risk assessment of a particular venue or event may identify the need for additional training to supplement the knowledge and skills outlined in this document.

Section 1: Learning programme overview

Training leading to an SIA licence-linked unit in physical intervention must include the following areas:

- Session 1: Knowledge of physical intervention skills in a close protection environment
- Session 2: Application of physical intervention skills in a close protection environment (non-pain related)

Section 2: Learning programme details

Session 1: Knowledge of physical intervention skills in a close protection environment

Aim:

To be able to know and understand key principles and risks associated with using physical skills in a close protection environment.

Objectives:

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

- know how to analyse an incident to identify and mitigate risks to safety
- understand alternative considerations to the use of force and extended risks from the initial event
- understand the necessity for narrowing the concentric layers of protection when managing an immediate threat to the principal
- know how to apply physical intervention skills on a justifiable, ethical and professional manner

Session 2: Application of physical intervention skills in a close protection environment (non-pain related)

Aim:

To be able to use non-aggressive physical skills to protect yourself and a principal from assault or harm.

Objectives:

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

- know how to apply physical intervention skills in a justifiable, ethical, and professional manner.
 - explain the legal, medical, and ethical implications of physical interventions within the context and boundaries of UK legislation
- use non-pain compliant soft skills to prevent harm to a principal
 - demonstrate soft skills to redirect others
 - demonstrate soft skills to restrict a subject's movements
 - demonstrate non pain compliant skills to redirect others
 - demonstrate non pain compliant skills to restrict a subject's movements
- use defensive non-pain compliant skills to protect self from assault
 - demonstrate skills to evade and protect self from blows
 - demonstrate skills to protect self from choke holds and strangulation
 - demonstrate skills to make space and withdraw self from perceived or actual weapon intended to cause harm
 - demonstrate methods of disengagement of yourself from grabs and holds
- use non-pain complaint methods of protecting the inner cordon
 - demonstrate methods of preventing subject from penetrating inner cordon
 - demonstrate methods of applying a restrictive hold
 - demonstrate method of removing a person
 - demonstrate a two-person method of removing a person
- protect the principal from assault
 - demonstrate a method of disengaging the principal from unwelcome embraces and holds
 - demonstrate a method of protecting the principal from blows
 - demonstrate effective communication with the subject throughout a physical intervention