

SFJCK2

Carry out systematic searches of vehicles, premises and open areas



Overview

This standard is about carrying out systematic searches of vehicles, premises and open areas. Searches of open areas could include, for example: a garden, a grass verge, a yard or a number of open areas along a route.

Searches must be conducted in a legal and ethical way, using approved search methods. You need to establish that you have the grounds and legal authority to carry out the search. You need to take appropriate actions in respect of finds and other contingencies. Where evidence is found this must be seized, packaged and stored in a manner that maintains its integrity and continuity. You also need to complete any necessary documentation.

There are two elements

- 1 Prepare to carry out systematic searches of vehicles, premises and open areas
- 2 Conduct systematic searches of vehicles, premises and open areas

Target Group

The standard is relevant to all police officers.

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Performance criteria

Prepare to carry out systematic searches of vehicles, premises and open areas

You must be able to:

- P1 establish that you have the grounds and legal authority to carry out the search
- P2 carry out planning appropriate to the circumstances and assess the risks involved
- P3 maintain the health and safety of self and others prior to the search
- P4 identify the **search area**, confirming that the location corresponds with the details on any search authority
- P5 clearly inform the relevant individuals present of the purpose and grounds for the search, and their rights in accordance with legislation
- P6 deal with individuals in an ethical manner, recognising their needs with respect to race, diversity and human rights

Conduct systematic searches of vehicles, premises and open areas

You must be able to:

- P7 conduct the search in an ethical and effective manner, recognising the individuals' and community's needs with respect to race, diversity and human rights
- P8 maintain the health and safety of self and others during and after the search
- P9 deal with personal property respectfully and in accordance with current policy
- P10 liaise with all relevant parties to maintain the effectiveness of the search
- P11 conduct the search systematically using approved and appropriate search methods
- P12 take appropriate actions in respect of **finds** and contingencies, in accordance with current guidance, policy and legislation
- P13 package and store any evidence seized to maintain its integrity and continuity
- P14 leave the **search area** in an appropriate condition and conclude the search procedures in accordance with current legislation and policy
- P15 fully document all decisions, actions, options and rationale in accordance with current policy and legislation

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

Legal and organisational requirements

- K1 current, relevant legislation, policies, procedures, codes of practice and guidelines for searching vehicles, premises and open areas
- K2 current, relevant legislation, policies, procedures, codes of practice and guidelines in relation to race, diversity and human rights
- K3 current, relevant legislation, policies, procedures, codes of practice and guidelines in relation to health and safety
- K4 current, relevant legislation, policies, procedures, codes of practice and guidelines in relation to working with children and young people

Preparing to carry out systematic searches of vehicles, premises and open areas

You need to know and understand:

- K5 how to maintain the health and safety of yourself and others during the search
- K6 the information which must be provided to relevant individuals during the search procedure
- K7 the reason why you must have the grounds and legal authority to carry out the search
- K8 how to establish you have the grounds and legal authority to carry out the search
- K9 how to obtain any necessary authority for the search
- K10 how to gather information and intelligence for the search
- K11 the items and evidence you are searching for
- K12 the risks involved in searching vehicles, premises and open areas, and how to deal with them
- K13 how to dynamically assess the risks involved in carrying out a search

Conducting systematic searches of vehicles, premises and open areas

You need to know and understand:

- K14 how to access search areas safely
- K15 how to keep damage and disruption to a minimum during searches
- K16 approved methods for searching vehicles, premises and open areas, and how to select and use appropriate methods
- K17 the limitations of the search with respect to the items that are being searched for
- K18 the ways in which items can be hidden and disposed of immediately prior to the search
- K19 how to interact with and handle individuals during the search to maintain safety and the effectiveness of the search
- K20 the contingencies that may occur and how to deal with them
- K21 the personal safety techniques (including the use of force) that may be

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- used and when it is appropriate to use them
- K22 actions to take in respect of the range of finds
- K23 how to handle, package and store items suspected of being evidence of an offence
- K24 the information you must provide to others on completion of the search
- K25 the condition in which the search area should be left and how to report any damage caused by the search

Documentation

You need to know and understand:

- K26 the types of search documentation that must be completed
- K27 the procedures for completing and submitting search documentation

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Additional Information

**Scope/range
related to
performance
criteria**

1. **search area**
 - 1.1. vehicles
 - 1.2. premises
 - 1.3. open areas

2. **finds**
 - 2.1. intelligence
 - 2.2. persons
 - 2.3. non-explosive material that may be required for evidence
 - 2.4. explosives
 - 2.5. firearms

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