

**BS 8517-1:2016**



**BSI Standards Publication**

# **Security dogs**

**Part 1: Code of practice for the use  
of general purpose security dogs**

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## Foreword

### Publishing information

This part of BS 8517 is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 30 September 2016. It was prepared by Panel GW/3/-/15, *Security dog users*, under the authority of Technical Committee GW/3, *Private security management and services*. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

### Supersession

This part of BS 8517 supersedes BS 8517-1:2009, which is withdrawn.

### Information about this document

This is a full revision of the standard, which has been updated to aid the understanding of the recommendations and reflect current practice.

Attention is drawn to the Private Security Industry Act 2001 [1], which contains provisions for regulating the private security industry, including security guarding. A person falling within the definition of providing security industry services under the Private Security Industry Act 2001 is required to be licensed in accordance with that Act. The Act can be found online at [www.the-sia.org.uk](http://www.the-sia.org.uk).

### Use of this document

As a code of practice, this part of BS 8517 takes the form of guidance and recommendations. It should not be quoted as if it were a specification and particular care should be taken to ensure that claims of compliance are not misleading.

Any user claiming compliance with this part of BS 8517 is expected to be able to justify any course of action that deviates from its recommendations.

### Presentational conventions

The provisions of this standard are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its recommendations are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is “should”.

*Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.*

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

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

**Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.**

## 1 Scope

This part of BS 8517 gives recommendations for the operational use of a dog by a security dog handler when providing manned guarding services on a static site or mobile patrol, including records, kennelling/husbandry, dog health and welfare, equipment and clothing, training and operational requirements.

*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 security dog services to ensure the service fits the end user requirements and risk profile.

This part of BS 8517 excludes the provision of detection dogs and handlers.

*NOTE 2 Detection dogs and handlers are covered in BS 8517-2.*

## 2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

BS 7499:2013, *Static site guarding and mobile patrol services – Code of practice*

BS 7858, *Security screening of individuals employed in a security environment – Code of practice*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this part of BS 8517, the terms and definitions given in BS 7499:2013 and the following apply.

### 3.1 general purpose security dog

dog, usually of a recognized guarding breed, with specialized training used for security services

*NOTE 1 Hereafter referred to as “dog”.*

*NOTE 2 Recognized guarding breeds include German Shepherds, Dobermans, Rottweilers and Mallinois.*

*NOTE 3 Attention is drawn to the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 [2].*

### 3.2 instructor/trainer

someone who teaches and educates both people and dogs

### 3.3 kennel

housing providing shelter and a place for a dog to sleep with room to stand up, turn around and lie down in comfort

### 3.4 organization

supplier, individual or company providing security dog services

### 3.5 run

secure area in which a dog has the freedom to walk about, adjacent to the kennel