



National Protective
Security Authority

Summary of SIA Licences

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Purpose of this document

The Security Industry Authority (SIA) is the regulator of the UK's private security industry and is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Home Office. This document is an aid-mémoire providing a summary of the licensable activity, types of licence and an overview of the training. It also provides a summary of the SIA Approved Contractor Scheme, that applies to organisations providing security services. Further information about the SIA can be found [here](#).

SIA Licences

SIA Licensing has historically focused on general crime, but now incorporates basic awareness of counter terrorism topics. Security operatives and their management require SIA licences for certain activities if a security operative is provided to another organisation under a contract for services. "Door Supervision" activities at licensed premises always require Door Supervision Licences, irrespective of whether they are "in-house" or contracted.

Does an SIA Licensed Security Officer make an individual operationally competent?

The SIA Licensing regime provides minimum statutory requirements. However, a security officer tasked to operate at a specific site will need further training in order to be effective at the role they are given. This might include, for example: venue familiarisation, training on equipment, procedures, task specific training etc. This should further be supplemented by ongoing training, rehearsals, exercises etc. and regular briefings on things like threat updates.

Licensed premises:

A venue that has a licence to do one or both of the following:

- sell alcohol for consumption on the premises
- provide regulated entertainment (for example: boxing, wrestling or film screenings)

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NPSA recommends that whether in-house or not, staff should obtain the relevant training and licence.

NPSA support and encourage further professional training of security officers and the wide variety of education courses available.



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SIA Licences / Licensable Activity Aide-Mémoire



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Management

Directors, Partners, Managers, Supervisors etc. of those providing security operatives to other organisations under a contract for services, will either require a “front line” or “non front line” licence, including;

Key Holding

Vehicle Immobilisation (Northern Ireland only)

Manned Guarding:

- **Cash and Valuables in Transit Licence** – for guarding property against damage or theft and transporting it in a vehicle designed for secure transportation.
- **Close Protection Licence** – for guarding people against physical assault or injury.
- **Door Supervision Licence** – for guarding licensed premises against damage, theft, unauthorised access or disorderly behaviour. This includes search of people and their belongings. Can take role of Security Guard.
- **Public Space Surveillance Licence** – for guarding premises, property or people by using CCTV equipment to:
 - 1) watch members of the public or identify particular people
 - 2) guard against disorder or protect from assault (including prevision and response).
- **Security Guard Licence** – for guarding premises or property against damage, theft, unauthorised access or disorderly behaviour. Cannot undertake role of Door Supervisor.

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Training Content for Certain SIA Licences (Oct 2021, reflecting recent changes)



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Close Protection Licence (140hrs)

Close Protection (CP):

- Roles & responsibilities of CP Operative
- Threat and risk assessment
- Surveillance awareness
- Operational planning
- Law and legislation
- Interpersonal skills
- CP Teamwork and briefing
- Conduct reconnaissance
- CP Foot Drills
- Route selection
- CP Journey Management
- Search procedures
- Incident management
- Venue security

Conflict Management:

- Preventing and managing conflict
- Defusing conflict
- Resolving and learning from conflict
- Application of communication skills (relative to CP)

First Aid at Work (or equivalent)

First aid qualification at level 3 or above before taking licence-linked training.

[Click for Close Protection specification](#)

[Click for Conflict Management specification](#)

Door Supervision Licence (44-52hrs)

Common Security Industry Knowledge:

- See bottom right

Door Supervision:

- The law
- Searching
- Drugs awareness
- Recording incidents and crime scene preservation
- Licensing law
- Dealing with queues and crowds
- Equipment

Physical Intervention Skills:

- Risks associate with the use of physical intervention skills
- Personal safety awareness and techniques (non pain related)
- Escorting techniques (non pain related)

Conflict Management:

- Preventing and managing conflict
- Defusing conflict
- Resolving and learning from conflict
- Application of communication skills (relative to Door Supervisions)

Emergency First Aid at Work (or equivalent)

[Click for Door Supervision specification](#)

[Click for Physical Intervention Skills specification](#)

[Click for Conflict Management specification](#)

[Click for First Aid requirements](#)

Common Module: Common Security Industry Knowledge

- The private security industry
- Awareness of the law in the private security industry
- Citizen's arrest
- Health & safety for the private security operative
- Fire safety awareness
- Emergency procedures
- Communication skills and customer care
- Record keeping
- Terrorist threat awareness
- Protecting vulnerable people
- Post incident management

[Click for Common Security Industry Knowledge specification](#)

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Training Content for Certain SIA Licences (Oct 2021, reflecting recent changes)



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Security Guarding Licence (30-38hrs)

Common Security Industry Knowledge:

- See bottom right

Security Guarding:

- Roles and responsibilities
- Access and egress control
- Electronic and physical protection systems
- Personal safety
- Drugs awareness
- Searching
- Patrolling

Conflict Management:

- Preventing and managing conflict
- Defusing conflict
- Resolving and learning from conflict
- Application of communication skills (relative to Security Officers)

Emergency First Aid at Work (or equivalent)

[Click for Security Guarding specification](#)

[Click for Conflict Management specification](#)

[Click for First Aid requirements](#)

Public Space Surveillance (CCTV) Licence (22-30hrs)

Common Security Industry Knowledge:

- See bottom right

Public Space Surveillance (CCTV):

- Introduction to the roles and responsibilities of the CCTV operator and other CCTV staff
- Legislation
- CCTV operational procedures
- Equipment
- CCTV activities
- Communications and dealing with Incidents
- Health and safety at working in the CCTV control room
- Practical operation of CCTV equipment
- Evidence collation

[Click for Public Space Surveillance specification](#)

Common Module: Common Security Industry Knowledge

- The private security industry
- Awareness of the law in the private security industry
- Citizen's arrest
- Health & safety for the private security operative
- Fire safety awareness
- Emergency procedures
- Communication skills and customer care
- Record keeping
- Terrorist threat awareness
- Protecting vulnerable people
- Post incident management

[Click for Common Security Industry Knowledge specification](#)

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Further Information

(Oct 2021, reflecting recent changes)



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SIA Register of Licence Holders

Once a licence has been issued, details about the licence holder are held on a register and made available to the public. You will be able to search the register using the 16-digit unique number displayed on the licence or the licence holders' personal details if known. The licence sector, licence status and licence holders name will be displayed. The address of an individual will not be made public.

Enforcement

The SIA conducts enforcement operations in conjunction with the police, local authorities and other agencies. These can lead to criminal investigations and prosecutions under, for example, the Private Security Industry Act 2001. This can include employing unlicensed persons in licensable conduct, engaging with licensable conduct without a licence etc. If you have concerns about illegal activity, you should report it to the SIA.

Training beyond the SIA Licence

It is very important that security officers receive additional training that is relevant to the role, the site they are protecting and the threats they are facing. The following resources are likely to be of assistance:

- [Recognising Terrorist Threats](#)
- [Marauding Terrorist Attacks](#)
- [Fire as a Weapon](#)
- [Hostile Reconnaissance](#)
- [Search & Screening](#)
- [Hostile Vehicle Mitigation](#)
- [Counter Drones](#)
- [Incident Response and Command and Control](#)
- [Control Rooms](#)
- [SCaN](#)
- [Security Control Room Operators Course](#)



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Further Information

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SIA Approved Contractor Scheme

The SIA operates an Approved Contractor Scheme (ACS). When you hire a private security company you have a choice between an SIA approved contractor or a company that has not been approved. The SIA state that the advantages of using an ACS security provider are:

- Quality assured by the industry regulator - the Approved Contractor Scheme (ACS) provides a recognised hallmark of quality within the private security industry.
- The SIA assess approved contractors against 78 different areas of their business. These cover topics as diverse as staff training, financial management and the company's health and safety policies.
- When you choose an approved contractor you can be sure that the business you are working with has passed a thorough quality assurance check.
- A commitment to quality - Our Approved Contractor Scheme is a voluntary scheme. Any company that is part of the scheme has chosen to be.
- The ACS is a progressive quality standard. That means it continually raises the standard that companies must meet in order to be approved.
- Quality assurance from top to bottom - Sub-contracting is a common practice in the private security industry. Approved contractors may only sub-contract to other approved contractors unless the SIA have given them special permission to do otherwise to ensure quality of service is maintained.
- A focus on you, the customer - the ACS standard encourages approved contractors to tailor their services to your needs.

You can find out if a company is approved by [searching our register](#) of approved contractors.



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