

## SEARCHING

Investigation Managers who are to carry out searches should understand the provision of the PACE Codes of Practice A and B and the Search Policy contained within the Group Security Database.

### PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS DURING SEARCHES

#### SEARCH EQUIPMENT

The following items should be the minimum contained within a search kit:

<i>Item bags and labels CS035 - CS037</i>	<i>Torches</i>
<i>Search forms CS005</i>	<i>Overalls</i>
<i>Notice of Powers and Rights form CS004</i>	<i>Gloves</i>
<i>Without prejudice receipts CS025</i>	<i>Big plastic bags</i>
<i>Camera</i>	<i>Plain paper (for sketch plans)</i>
<i>Search record logs</i>	<i>Mirror</i>
<i>Pens and pencils</i>	<i>Sharps box</i>

#### GENERAL

Searching can be extremely stressful for the suspect and this is particularly so if he is confronted with clear evidence found during the search.

In view of this, prior to any searches, Investigation Managers should make checks with Group Security and the local police. By checking with the police, you will not only gain any relevant intelligence known about the address and suspect, but you will also alert them to your intentions and location should you need urgent assistance. Group Security will be able to do a PNC and a voters check. If there is any indication of a threat of violence or offensive weapons then police assistance should be sought.

Searches should be thorough and systematic and the recommended order for them to be carried out is: clothing, official locker, vehicle and home address or place of residence. Confirmation of locker use, car registration and home address should be obtained prior to the interview.

When requesting permission to conduct searches the suspect should be given an explanation of what the searches will entail. Be certain that the suspect fully understands the search procedures and is content to allow them to be conducted. Ask the suspect to hand over keys for locker, car and home before leaving the interview room.

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Whilst conducting searches, with the exception of the clothing search, at least three Investigation Managers should be present. The roles of the three Investigation Managers should be clarified before the search and should be as follows:

Lead Investigation Manager – usually called “The Officer in the Case”

- 1) should always chaperone the suspect.*
- 2) should be the only one communicating directly with the suspect. He should alert his colleagues to any apparent changes in behaviour, including any attempt to leave the part of the premises being searched.*

Second Investigation Manager – usually called “The Number Two Officer”

- 1) should carry out the role of scribe/exhibits officer.*
- 2) is responsible for the security of the exhibits and search equipment*
- 3) is also responsible for recording and bagging the exhibits and recording any relevant information/conversation.*

Third Investigation Manager – usually called “The Number Three Officer”

- 1) carries out the searching.*

Numbers two and three Investigation Managers should alternate with each other after 20 minutes. The lead Investigation Manager, however, should always remain with the suspect as he will hopefully have established a rapport with him.

The clothing search should be conducted on tape with a third Investigation Manager in the vicinity on standby. However, there are circumstances where the clothing search takes place prior to the tapes being turned on and these will be discussed during the search day.

Additionally, on all searches, do *not* put your hands where you cannot see and wear two pairs of gloves.

Whilst searching vehicles, remember to check that the handbrake is applied and be aware that some surfaces may be hot.

Irrespective of whether there has been voluntary agreement to a search, if, in the opinion of the Investigation Manager, the presence of police officers is felt to be warranted, contact with the local police should be made without delay. If possible this should take place out of the hearing of the suspect, but it is appreciated that this may not always be possible.

In respect of transport to and from searches:

- 1) Do not let the suspect drive his own vehicle for reasons of safety and preservation of evidence.*



- 2) *Do not let the suspect sit behind the driver – he should be on the back seat behind the front passenger seat with an Investigation Manager sat behind the driver. Ensure that seatbelts are worn by those in the back of the car. Child locks can be activated.*
- 3) *Make sure the seat where the suspect sits is searched before and after journeys, to ensure nothing has been hidden by him.*

### CLOTHING SEARCH

- 1) Ask the suspect to empty their own pockets and turn them out.
- 2) Work from top to bottom by patting gently and looking.
- 3) Think, where would I hide things?

### VEHICLE SEARCH

- 1) Search the vehicle systematically, covering the exterior, interior, boot, engine & underneath.
- 2) Consider – “Area, Depth and Access” and the following:  
*What are we looking for on the exterior?*  
*Roof rack boxes, compartments, fuel filler cap area – also look for finger mark smudges around the vehicle.*  
*How do we search the interior?*  
*Top to bottom. Driver’s seat and area, passenger’s seat and area followed by the back seat. Do not forget to look in the sun visors, underneath the dash, and under carpets. Whilst looking, pay attention to screws which look like they have wear marks on them and screwdriver leverage marks on “snap off” compartments.*  
*How do we search the boot?*  
*Search the contents, then in doing so empty the boot so you can check the spare wheel area and tool compartments. Don’t forget the boot lid.*  
*How do we search the engine compartment?*  
*Look for finger marks and remember the actual bonnet.*  
*Finally there is underneath, what are we looking for?*  
*Magnetic boxes underneath, finger smudge marks on the vehicle.*
- 3) Think, where would I hide things?



## PREMISES SEARCH

- 1) Try to establish how many people or dangerous pets will be at the premises prior to arrival.
- 2) Prior to entry, telephone another Investigation Manager and let them know you are about to enter – have a call in plan.
- 3) Key the number of the local police into your mobile phone ready to call if needed.
- 4) Initially on entry, the Lead and Second Investigation Manager, and the suspect, enter the house and invite everyone present into one place. Then ask the occupant to invite non-residents to leave.
- 5) Explain to the people who remain what is to happen.
- 6) Create a sterile area by searching and invite persons present into it.
- 7) If any illegal firearms, ammunition or drugs are found, isolate them and call the police out of the hearing of the suspect if possible.
- 8) The correct way to search a room is to go in and survey it and firstly recover any evidence that is obvious. Then search the door, walls, ceiling, furniture and floors by going around the room systematically. Consider “Area, Depth and Access” and the following:

What are we looking for in the door?

*When searching doors, consider the frame and architrave. You should be looking for signs of access such as tool marks and worn screws and also be aware of hollow doors and grooves cut into the top of them.*

What are we looking for on walls?

*A search of the walls includes everything that forms part of the walls, including items hung on them. Examples are skirting boards, fireplaces, windows, electrical sockets, heaters, pictures, shelves etc.*

What are we looking for with the ceiling?

*Is the ceiling false, and if it is, watch the weight you put on it, also consider things like the lighting and smoke alarms.*

How do you think we search furniture?

*The furniture should be searched from top to bottom, thinking area, depth and access. Be aware of hidden compartments and things stuck to the underside of furniture.*



What should you be considering about the floor?

*You must consider under the floor covering and underneath the floor boards. You must however think of access, so look for lifted carpet edges or loose floorboards.*

- 9) The suspect should be present in the area which is being searched, with the lead Investigation Manager, for safety and for evidential purposes.
- 10) Do not forget lofts, cellars, sheds or other out buildings.
- 11) Think, where would I hide something?

### DAMAGE

It is important that when conducting a search, damage should not be caused to the suspect's clothing or property. If, in exceptional circumstances, some damage was inevitable, the facts should be fully covered in your report.

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