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# Expert Commentary on BS 7499:2013, *Static site guarding and mobile patrol service — Code of practice*

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## Summary

BS 7499 was the first British Standard written for the manned security services sector and was originally published in 1991. Since the original publication, the code of practice has been regularly amended and revised, not just due to changes in industry best practice but also taking into consideration other codes of practice published for the security sector. The current edition, published in September 2013, is the fifth edition.

With its established history and best practice accepted by the industry, the changes in the current edition are mainly linked to evolving technology, improving staff welfare, continuing to reflect best practice, or improving understanding of the requirements.

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## Significant changes introduced in BS 7499:2013

### 5.5.3 Basic job training (MODIFIED)

An additional paragraph has been added in the 2013 edition, requiring the employer to conduct a gap analysis of the training for employees who hold either a door supervision licence or a close protection licence from the Security Industry Authority, to identify and provide any omissions in previously training.

The standard now clearly highlights that there is a difference between the training course content for door supervisors (and close protection operatives) and the training required for the duties of a security officer as covered by this code of practice.

The standard makes it clear that the organization needs to ensure that the employee has had the appropriate training for their duties as a security officer (the training prerequisites listed in the code of practice, which are in line with the requirements to obtain a security officer's licence). It recognises that whilst there is significant overlap between the training requirements for either a door supervision licence or a close protection licence, there are also some omissions (e.g. patrolling). It draws the attention of the organization to the fact that whilst an employee may hold a legally competent licence, they may not be appropriately trained for security officer duties.

### 6.4.5 Staff visits (MODIFIED)

The requirements in this clause were modified based on the experience of organizations from implementing changes in this section in the previous edition, which had introduced a number of topics to be discussed during monthly supervisory visits. Whilst the intention had been to improve the quality of a supervisory visit, the visits had become a bureaucratic box-ticking exercise.

The 2013 edition reduces the number of visits where there is a specific requirement to discuss welfare, AIs, performance and training needs and additionally service delivery to every three months, and also specifically allows the recording of such visits to be electronic.