

National Basic Security Training Standards

Background

In 2023, consultations were undertaken with the security industry as part of the review and revision of a provincial basic security training (BST) program. Coupling a review of the existing BST program with the consultation discussions, it was discovered that

- the existing BST program attempted to teach all aspects of the security industry: loss prevention, facility patrol, vehicle patrol, surveillance, crowd control, traffic, control,
- because of the breadth of the security industry, only a short time could be spent on each aspect of the security industry
- industry reports that the information presented does not sufficiently prepare learners to function in any of these aspects, so it must be retaught
- learners who have take BST training report that, while they were taught a lot, but do not remember much of what they were taught*
- given that learners will be working in only one aspect of security, much of the BST time is wasted presenting unnecessary information

Simply, the security industry is too broad with too many specializations for all aspects of security work to be effectively conveyed in a basic training course. Learners are overwhelmed with information, most of which they will not use in their employment, and will quickly forget it.

Another observation from the security industry was that the roles and responsibilities of security professionals is the same across the country. A security professional engaged in loss prevention will do the same work in Vancouver, in Winnipeg, in Halifax, and in every community in between. However, while there are many commonalities, every post is different. For example, every company has particular procedures for loss prevention within the general scope of the Criminal Code. Another example, there are general features of a patrol, but the specifics of how a patrol is conducted differs from post to post.

Proposals

These proposals address the issues detailed above.

CA*SP proposes that basic security training across Canada be standardized.

- security professionals do the same work in the same environments
- this would also allow for easy mobility between provinces

* There are three primary reasons why learners do not recall information.

- information overload: learners receive too much different information too quickly
- no overlap with existing knowledge, so cannot link new information to existing knowledge
- no reinforcement through repetition, advanced courses, practice, or application

CA*SP proposes that basic security training focus on aspects of security general to the security industry. These aspects include:

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| 1. legislation governing security professionals (province specific) | 4 hr |
| 2. the legal system | 12 |
| ◦ Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms | |
| ◦ Criminal Code (common crimes, arrest procedure, use of force) | |
| ◦ provincial legislation | |
| 3. communication and interpersonal skills | 8 |
| 4. documenting (notebooks and reports) | 6 |
| 5. threat assessment and risk management | 6 |
| 6. situation management | 4 |

CA*SP proposes that practical, duty-specific, and post-specific training be delegated to employers and specialized training.

- security professionals new to a post can take in-depth post-specific training
- the particulars of that post must be taught by the employer or client

Summary

These proposals provide security professionals with consistent national training. The training material presents the knowledge and skills security professionals need to safely and effectively complete their roles and responsibilities in the vast majority of security posts. The training prepares them for advanced specialized training in their specific post's responsibilities.

These proposals are better for security professionals, security employers, their client, and society.