

Gravity Bar

Search Policy

In certain circumstances it may be appropriate or necessary to conduct searches of customers' bags and/or clothes. Any decision to do so should be made in consultation with the premises' management / DPS.

Where the decision has been made that customers should be searched prior to entry a notice shall be prominently displayed outside the premises informing customers that they may be searched upon entry to the premises. The sign shall read:

"In order to provide our guests with a safe environment we may request permission to search anyone wishing to enter this premises. Thank you for your anticipated co-operation. If you decline to be searched you will be refused entry to the premises."

If staff are conducting searches the following procedures should be followed:

- Customers have the right to refuse to be searched. However, any customer who refuses to be searched shall be denied entry to the premises.
- Staff searching customers must first seek their permission to search them.
- The search must be conducted by a member of security staff (SIA licensed Door Supervisor) or a member of the management team and shall be conducted in a courteous fashion.
- The customer should be informed that they are being searched as part of a random search policy. Searches should also be conducted where there is a reasonable belief that the customer has been using illegal drugs or may be in the possession of illegal drugs or other illegal or offensive items.
- When searching, the customer should be asked if they have anything in their possession that they wish to hand over prior to the search, including sharp objects that may cause harm to themselves or security.
- Customers shall be advised why they are being searched, i.e. to prevent illegal items such as drugs and weapons from being brought into the premises.
- Customers shall not be forcibly searched or searched against their will.
- Customers must open their own bags.
- All searches should take place in front of a witness, e.g. a second security staff member or a member of staff, in a well-lit area or in full view of CCTV / body-worn camera(s).
- Male door supervisors may ask female customers to empty the contents of their handbags or pockets onto a table but otherwise must not carry out a "pat-down." Female door supervisors should be used in these circumstances.
- Management may use metal detecting 'wands' where it is felt appropriate.
- Any contraband items discovered during a search, e.g. weapons, illegal drugs etc, shall be confiscated, recorded and handed over to the Metropolitan Police Service at the earliest convenient opportunity. The customer found to be in possession of contraband shall not be permitted entry to the premises and where appropriate, e.g. if the illegal drugs are of a significant amount, an attempt should be made to detain the offending person or monitor his/her

movements upon leaving the premises, and the Police shall be called immediately.