



Close Protection & Hostile Environment Training Guide



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Introduction

Thank you for your interest in Horizon's Close Protection training programmes.

Whether you are transitioning from the Armed Forces, seeking a career change, or looking to enter the private security industry, our Close Protection training provides the knowledge, practical skills, and qualifications required to begin your journey as a professional Close Protection Operative.

The close protection industry offers a diverse range of opportunities, from protecting corporate executives and high-net-worth individuals to supporting celebrities, sporting personalities, political figures, and members of royal households. The role demands professionalism, discretion, adaptability, and the ability to perform effectively under pressure.

At Horizon, we deliver realistic, experience-led training designed by instructors who continue to operate within the security industry. Our courses go beyond the minimum licensing requirements, ensuring learners develop the confidence and practical ability required to operate in real-world environments.

Our Close Protection Level 3 programme can be completed as a standalone qualification or combined with the Level 3 First Response Emergency Care (FREC) course, which is a mandatory prerequisite for obtaining an SIA Close Protection licence. For those seeking additional skills for deployment in higher-risk environments, we also offer our Hostile Environment Close Protection Operative (HECPO) programme.

This brochure provides an overview of our training courses, entry requirements, assessments, accommodation options, funding opportunities, and frequently asked questions. We hope it helps

you make an informed decision and look forward to supporting you on your journey into the close protection industry.

Why choose Horizon?

Choosing the right training provider is one of the most important decisions you will make when entering the Close Protection industry.

At Horizon, we are committed to delivering professional, realistic, and industry-focused training that prepares learners not only to achieve qualifications, but to develop the confidence, knowledge, and practical skills required within the security sector.

Why learners choose Horizon:

- ✓ Experienced instructors with operational security backgrounds
- ✓ Realistic practical exercises and scenario-based training
- ✓ Nationally recognised qualifications and industry-relevant certifications
- ✓ ELCAS Approved Learning Provider (Provider Number 5805)
- ✓ Modern training facilities at a professional venue near Glasgow Airport
- ✓ End of Course Reports (EoCR) for Close Protection learners
- ✓ Post-course support, guidance, and professional development advice
- ✓ Access to industry contacts, networking opportunities, and employment guidance
- ✓ Small course sizes designed to maximise learner engagement and instructor support
- ✓ Commitment to professionalism, operational standards, and continuous improvement

Our objective is simple: to provide learners with the training, support, and practical experience required to succeed within an increasingly competitive security industry.

Who Are These Courses Suitable For?

Our training programmes are designed for individuals from a wide range of backgrounds who are seeking to enter or further develop their careers within the security industry.

These courses may be particularly suitable for:

- ✓ Military personnel transitioning into civilian employment
- ✓ Existing security professionals seeking career progression
- ✓ Former police, prison, or emergency services personnel
- ✓ Individuals seeking a career change into the private security sector
- ✓ Existing Close Protection Operatives looking to enhance their qualifications and skill set
- ✓ Individuals wishing to develop practical security, risk management, and protective security skills

No previous Close Protection experience is required for the Close Protection Level 3 course. Our instructional team will provide the guidance and support required throughout your training journey.

Close Protection Level 3 Course

The Level 3 Certificate for Working as a Close Protection Operative within the Private Security Industry is the qualification required by individuals seeking to apply for an SIA Close Protection licence.

This comprehensive programme has been designed to equip learners with the knowledge, practical skills, and professional mindset required to operate effectively within the close protection industry. The course combines classroom-based learning with realistic practical exercises, ensuring students develop both theoretical understanding and operational competence.

Delivered by experienced Close Protection Operatives with extensive military, government, and commercial security backgrounds, the programme provides learners with valuable insight into the realities of modern protective security operations.

Throughout the course, students will develop an understanding of:

- The role and responsibilities of a Close Protection Operative
- Protective security principles and threat mitigation
- Risk assessment and operational planning
- Surveillance awareness and counter-surveillance techniques
- Venue and residential security
- Teamwork and communication within a Close Protection environment
- Conflict management and physical intervention
- Legal responsibilities and industry legislation
- Protective movement, route planning, and vehicle procedures
- Emergency response and incident management

Successful completion of the course enables learners to apply for an SIA Close Protection licence, subject to meeting the SIA's identity, criminality, and eligibility requirements.

For individuals who do not already hold a valid Level 3 first aid qualification, Horizon also offers the Level 3 First Response Emergency Care (FREC) qualification, which can be completed immediately prior to the Close Protection course as part of a combined training package.



Course Syllabus

Our Close Protection Level 3 course has been developed by experienced operational Close Protection professionals and exceeds the minimum requirements required for SIA licensing.

The programme combines classroom-based learning with practical exercises designed to replicate the challenges commonly encountered within the private security industry.

During the course, learners will cover the following subjects:

Core Close Protection Principles

- Roles and responsibilities of a Close Protection Operative
- Professional standards and industry expectations
- Team structures and operational responsibilities
- Communication and interpersonal skills

Threat, Risk and Operational Planning

- Threat and risk assessment
- Operational planning processes
- Reconnaissance and site surveys
- Route selection and journey management
- Venue and residential security

Protective Security Operations

- Walking drills and protective formations
- Vehicle procedures and vehicle drills
- Surveillance awareness and counter-surveillance
- Search procedures for persons, vehicles and venues
- Incident management and emergency response

Law, Conflict Management and Physical Intervention

- Relevant legislation affecting Close Protection Operatives
- Conflict management techniques
- Dynamic decision making
- Use of force considerations
- Physical intervention skills

Counter Terrorism Awareness

- Current threat landscape
- Terror threat awareness
- Identifying suspicious activity
- Protective security measures

Practical Exercises

Throughout the programme, learners participate in realistic practical exercises designed to develop confidence, teamwork, communication, situational awareness and decision-making under pressure. Practical scenarios are progressively developed throughout the course to ensure students are prepared for the demands of working within the Close Protection industry.

By the conclusion of the programme, learners will possess the knowledge, skills and confidence required to perform effectively as a Close Protection Operative and to progress towards obtaining their SIA Close Protection licence.

Course Pre-Requisites

To enrol on the Close Protection Level 3 course, candidates must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Be able to communicate effectively in spoken and written English.
- Hold a valid Level 3 first aid qualification that meets current SIA licensing requirements, such as First Response Emergency Care (FREC) Level 3 or an equivalent qualification.
- Be physically capable of participating in practical training exercises conducted throughout the programme.
- Provide valid photographic identification and proof of address in accordance with awarding body and SIA requirements.

If you are unsure whether your first aid qualification meets the current SIA licensing requirements, please contact Horizon prior to booking and a member of our team will be happy to assist.

Driving

Although a driving licence is not required to attend the course or obtain an SIA Close Protection licence, many employers prefer or require Close Protection Operatives to hold a full UK driving licence.

Learners who wish to participate in any driving-related practical activities delivered during the course must satisfy Horizon's insurance requirements at the time of training.

Assessment and Certification Description

Our Close Protection Level 3 course combines classroom-based learning with practical exercises to create an engaging and realistic learning experience.

Throughout the programme, learners are continuously supported by experienced instructors who provide guidance, feedback, and coaching to help maximise their chances of success.

To achieve the qualification, learners must successfully complete a combination of knowledge-based and practical assessments in accordance with the awarding body's requirements. These assessments are designed to evaluate both theoretical understanding and the practical skills required to operate safely and effectively within a Close Protection environment.

Assessment methods may include:

- Knowledge-based assessments and examinations
- Completion of course workbooks and learning activities
- Practical skills assessments
- Scenario-based exercises and performance evaluations

Successful learners will be awarded the Pearson Level 3 Certificate for Working as a Close Protection Operative within the Private Security Industry.

Upon achievement of the qualification, learners may apply for an SIA Close Protection licence, subject to satisfying the SIA's identity, criminality, and eligibility requirements.

Our objective is not simply to help learners pass the qualification, but to ensure they leave the course with the confidence, professionalism, and practical ability required to succeed within the Close Protection industry.

Hostile Environment Close Protection Operative (HECPO)



The Hostile Environment Close Protection Operative (HECPO) course has been designed for Close Protection Operatives who may be required to work in elevated threat environments, either within the UK or overseas.

Building upon the foundations established during Close Protection training, this intensive programme focuses on the additional knowledge, skills, and mindset required to operate safely and effectively in challenging and potentially hostile locations.

Delivered by instructors with extensive operational experience, the course combines classroom-based learning with realistic practical exercises conducted within a purpose-built urban training environment.

Throughout the programme, learners will develop an understanding of:

- Threats commonly encountered in hostile and high-risk environments
- International terrorism and extremist threats
- Kidnap, abduction, and hostage awareness
- Personal security and situational awareness
- Protective security planning for overseas deployments
- Journey management and international travel security
- Residential and venue security in elevated threat areas
- Cultural awareness and operating in unfamiliar environments
- Checkpoint procedures and conflict avoidance
- Ballistic protection and personal protective equipment
- Emergency response considerations
- Team-based problem solving under pressure

A significant proportion of the course is delivered through practical exercises designed to challenge decision-making, communication, leadership, and teamwork within realistic operational scenarios.

Whilst the HECPO course is not a requirement for obtaining or renewing an SIA Close Protection licence, it is widely recognised as a valuable enhancement to a Close Protection Operative's professional development. From an employer's perspective, candidates who have undertaken additional training beyond the minimum licensing requirements often demonstrate a greater commitment to their profession and a broader operational skill set. In an increasingly competitive

industry, the HECPO qualification can help distinguish candidates from others holding the same SIA licence and may enhance employment prospects for certain security roles and deployments.

For many learners, the HECPO course represents the next logical step in their professional development following completion of their Close Protection qualification, providing additional knowledge and practical experience that can be applied across a wide range of security environments.

Upon successful completion, learners will receive a Horizon Hostile Environment Close Protection Operative certificate detailing the training objectives achieved throughout the programme.

HECPO Course Prerequisites

To enrol on the Hostile Environment Close Protection Operative (HECPO) course, candidates must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Hold a recognised Close Protection qualification.
- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Be able to communicate effectively in spoken and written English.
- Be physically capable of participating in practical training exercises conducted throughout the programme.
- Provide valid photographic identification if requested.

Although prior operational experience within the security industry is advantageous, it is not a mandatory requirement. The course is suitable for both newly qualified and experienced Close Protection Operatives seeking to further develop their knowledge and practical capabilities. As the HECPO course focuses heavily on practical exercises and scenario-based learning, candidates should be prepared to actively participate in both classroom and outdoor training activities throughout the duration of the programme.

The Horizon Close Protection Team



At Horizon, we believe that effective Close Protection training should be delivered by instructors who possess genuine operational experience and a thorough understanding of the modern security industry.

Our instructional team comprises experienced Close Protection Operatives and security professionals drawn from military, government, law enforcement, and commercial security backgrounds.

Collectively, they have operated across a diverse range of environments, supporting private clients, corporate organisations, public figures, and high-profile events both within the UK and internationally.

This operational experience enables our instructors to provide practical insight that extends beyond the qualification syllabus, helping learners develop a realistic understanding of the challenges and expectations associated with working in the Close Protection industry.

Training is delivered using a combination of classroom instruction, practical exercises, scenario-based learning, and professional mentoring. Throughout the course, learners are encouraged to ask questions, challenge assumptions, and benefit from the real-world experiences shared by the instructional team.

Our aim is not simply to help learners achieve a qualification, but to develop competent, professional, and employable Close Protection Operatives who are prepared for the realities of the industry.

Professional Standards

The Close Protection industry demands professionalism, integrity, discretion, and a commitment to continuous personal development.

At Horizon, we place significant emphasis on developing not only technical competence but also the professional behaviours expected of individuals operating within the security sector. Throughout training, learners are encouraged to demonstrate reliability, accountability, teamwork, effective communication, and sound decision-making under pressure.

Our objective is to develop security professionals who are capable of representing themselves, their clients, and their employers to the highest possible standard.

Course Information

Course Location and Accommodation

All Horizon training courses are delivered at:

The Normandy Hotel

Inchinnan Road
Renfrew
PA4 9EJ



Conveniently located approximately one mile from Glasgow Airport, The Normandy Hotel provides an ideal learning environment with dedicated training facilities, free on-site parking, dining facilities, and comfortable accommodation options.

The hotel's conference facilities are utilised throughout the duration of our courses, providing a professional and comfortable environment for both classroom-based learning and practical exercises.

Accommodation

For learners travelling from outside the local area, accommodation is available directly through The Normandy Hotel, which hosts our training courses.

As a Horizon learner, you may be eligible for discounted accommodation rates that are not available to the general public. To enquire about availability and current delegate rates, please contact the hotel directly:

reservations@thenormandyhotel.co.uk

When making your reservation, please advise the hotel that you are attending a Horizon training course to ensure any available discounted delegate rates are applied.

Whilst many learners choose to stay at The Normandy Hotel for convenience, there are numerous alternative accommodation providers located nearby, including hotels, guest houses, serviced apartments, and short-term rental properties. This allows learners to select accommodation that best suits their individual preferences and budget.

Travel Information

- Approximately 5 minutes from Glasgow Airport
- Free on-site parking available
- Excellent motorway links via the M8
- Easy access from Glasgow City Centre and surrounding areas

For further information regarding the training venue, directions, local amenities, accommodation options, and travel guidance, please visit:

Further joining instructions, reporting times, and course-specific information will be issued following confirmation of your booking.

Course Durations

Horizon offers a range of training programmes designed to suit both new entrants and experienced security professionals.

The duration of each course is as follows:



Please note that course durations are based on current programme structures and may be subject to change in line with awarding body or regulatory requirements.

Training Packages

Horizon offers a range of training pathways designed to suit both new entrants and experienced security professionals seeking to enhance their qualifications and career prospects. Whether you require a standalone qualification or a complete training package, our programmes can be completed individually or as part of a combined learning pathway.

Close Protection Level 3

Ideal for individuals who already hold a valid Level 3 first aid qualification that meets current SIA licensing requirements.

Includes:

- Pearson Level 3 Certificate for Working as a Close Protection Operative within the Private Security Industry
- Comprehensive practical and classroom-based training
- End of Course Report (EoCR)
- Guidance on the SIA licensing process

FREC Level 3 & Close Protection Level 3 Package

Our most popular training package.

Ideal for individuals who do not currently hold a valid Level 3 first aid qualification and require both qualifications to apply for an SIA Close Protection licence.

Includes:

- Level 3 Award in First Response Emergency Care (FREC)
- Pearson Level 3 Certificate for Working as a Close Protection Operative within the Private Security Industry
- Practical scenario-based training
- End of Course Report (EoCR)
- Guidance on the SIA licensing process

Hostile Environment Close Protection Operative (HECPO)

Designed for qualified Close Protection Operatives wishing to further develop their operational capabilities and enhance their professional skill set.

Includes:

- Four-day HECPO programme
- Urban training exercises
- Hostile environment awareness training
- Team-based practical scenarios
- Horizon HECPO Certificate

Complete Professional Development Package

For learners seeking the most comprehensive training pathway available.

Includes:

- Level 3 Award in First Response Emergency Care (FREC)
- Pearson Level 3 Certificate for Working as a Close Protection Operative within the Private Security Industry
- Hostile Environment Close Protection Operative (HECPO) course
- End of Course Report (EoCR)
- Post-course guidance and support

This package provides a streamlined route through all three programmes and is particularly popular with individuals transitioning from the Armed Forces and those seeking to maximise their employability within the security industry.

What's Included With Your Training?

When you train with Horizon, your course fee includes far more than just the qualification itself. Our objective is to provide learners with the knowledge, practical skills, support, and guidance required to develop both personally and professionally throughout their training journey.

Depending on the programme selected, your training package may include:

- ✓ Comprehensive classroom-based instruction
- ✓ Practical scenario-based exercises
- ✓ Assessment and certification fees
- ✓ Nationally recognised qualifications and course certificates (where applicable)
- ✓ Course materials and learning resources
- ✓ Experienced operational instructors
- ✓ Individual feedback and mentoring
- ✓ End of Course Report (Close Protection learners)
- ✓ Guidance on the SIA licensing process
- ✓ Post-course support and career advice
- ✓ Access to industry contacts, networking opportunities, and employment guidance

✓ Complimentary on-site parking

✓ Access to discounted accommodation rates at the training venue

Our commitment extends beyond course completion, and we remain available to provide guidance and support as learners progress within the security industry.

Catering & Local Amenities

The Normandy Hotel offers on-site dining facilities, including breakfast, lunch, evening meals, and refreshments, providing learners with convenient access to food and beverages throughout their training.

In addition to the hotel's facilities, a variety of restaurants, cafés, supermarkets, takeaway outlets, and convenience stores are located within a short distance of the training venue, offering options to suit a wide range of tastes and budgets.

Whether attending a short course or a longer training programme, learners will find a range of amenities readily available throughout their stay.

Military Resettlement & Enhanced Learning Credits (ELCAS)

Overview

Horizon Security Solutions Ltd is an approved provider under the Ministry of Defence Enhanced Learning Credits Administration Service (ELCAS).



The Enhanced Learning Credits Scheme enables eligible serving and former members of the Armed Forces to access financial support towards recognised training and education programmes. Our FREC Level 3 and Close Protection Level 3 training programmes are approved for ELCAS funding, allowing eligible learners to use their Enhanced Learning Credits towards the cost of their training.

How the ELCAS Process Works

1. Reserve your place by paying the required course deposit.
2. Horizon will provide the documentation required to support your ELCAS application.
3. Submit your ELCAS claim through the ELCAS website.
4. Once approved, you will receive a Claim Authorisation Note (CAN).
5. Any personal contribution must be paid prior to the course commencement date.
6. Horizon will invoice the Ministry of Defence for the approved ELCAS contribution once your course has commenced.

Additional Support

We understand that many learners are navigating the resettlement process for the first time. Our team has extensive experience supporting military personnel throughout the ELCAS application process and will be happy to provide guidance at every stage.

For further information regarding eligibility and the Enhanced Learning Credits Scheme, please visit: www.enhancedlearningcredits.com

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need any previous military or security experience?

No. Our Close Protection Level 3 course is open to individuals from all backgrounds. Whilst previous military, law enforcement, or security experience can be advantageous, it is not a requirement.

Do I need a first aid qualification?

Yes. Current SIA licensing requirements require Close Protection Operatives to hold a valid Level 3 first aid qualification. If you do not already hold an appropriate qualification, Horizon offers the Level 3 Award in First Response Emergency Care (FREC), which can be completed immediately before the Close Protection course.

Will completing the course automatically give me an SIA licence?

No. Successful completion of the qualification enables you to apply for an SIA Close Protection licence. The licence application itself is completed directly with the Security Industry Authority and remains subject to their eligibility, identity, and criminality checks.

Is there a limit on student numbers?

Yes. We deliberately restrict course numbers to maintain a high-quality learning environment and ensure learners receive appropriate instructor support and feedback throughout the programme.

What level of English is required?

Learners must be able to communicate effectively in both written and spoken English. This is necessary to complete the course assessments and perform effectively within a Close Protection role.

What level of fitness is required?

Whilst there is no formal fitness test, Close Protection can be a physically demanding profession. Learners should be in reasonable health and capable of participating in practical exercises delivered throughout the course.

Can I obtain an SIA licence if I have a criminal record?

Possibly. The SIA assesses each application individually based on the nature of any offences, sentencing history, and the time elapsed since the offence occurred. Further guidance is available directly from the SIA.

Can I use ELCAS funding?

Yes. Horizon is an approved ELCAS provider (Provider Number 5805), and eligible learners may use their Enhanced Learning Credits towards approved training programmes.

Do you offer payment options?

Yes. Subject to eligibility and current availability, Horizon may offer flexible payment options on selected training programmes. Please contact us for further information.

Can I change my course dates after booking?

Course transfers may be possible subject to availability and our Terms and Conditions. Please contact us as early as possible if you need to discuss changing your course date.

What should I wear and bring to the course?

Full joining instructions are issued following confirmation of your booking and include details of required equipment, identification, dress standards, reporting times, and venue information.

Is accommodation included?

Accommodation is not included within the course fees. However, discounted accommodation rates may be available at The Normandy Hotel, which hosts our training courses. Numerous alternative accommodation options are also available nearby.

Will I receive feedback during the course?

Yes. Learners receive ongoing feedback from instructors throughout the programme. Close Protection learners also receive a detailed End of Course Report (EoCR) summarising their performance and highlighting areas for future development.

What employment opportunities are available following qualification?

Employment opportunities vary depending on an individual's qualifications, experience, professional attitude, geographical location, and willingness to undertake additional training and development.

Whilst employment cannot be guaranteed, Horizon provides guidance, advice, networking opportunities, and industry insight designed to help learners maximise their employment prospects within the security sector.

Learners who demonstrate professionalism, competence, and commitment throughout their training may also benefit from introductions to organisations operating within the industry where appropriate.

What support do you provide after the course?

We provide ongoing guidance relating to CV development, interview preparation, professional development, networking, industry expectations, and general career progression within the security sector.

How much can a Close Protection Operative earn?

Earnings vary significantly depending on experience, location, employer, role, and risk profile. As with most professions, individuals who continue to develop their skills, qualifications, and operational experience generally have access to a wider range of opportunities.

Is passing the course guaranteed?

No. Whilst our instructors provide extensive support throughout the programme, all learners must successfully meet the required assessment standards. Additional support and reassessment opportunities may be available where appropriate.

What if I have additional questions?

Our team is always happy to help. If you require further information regarding any of our training programmes, funding options, accommodation, or course suitability, please contact us directly and we will be pleased to assist.

Your next Steps

1. Review our current course dates and availability.
2. Contact our team if you require advice regarding course suitability.
3. Reserve your place on the appropriate training programme.
4. Complete your training and assessments.
5. Apply for your SIA Close Protection licence (where applicable).
6. Continue your professional development and pursue opportunities within the security industry.

Our team is available throughout this process and will be pleased to assist with any questions you may have.

Ready to Start Your Close Protection Journey?

Whether you are transitioning from the Armed Forces, looking to enter the private security industry, or seeking to enhance your existing qualifications, Horizon is committed to providing the training, support, and guidance required to help you achieve your professional goals.

Our experienced instructional team, realistic training environments, and industry-focused approach have helped learners from military, law enforcement, emergency services, and civilian backgrounds develop the qualifications, confidence, and practical skills required to pursue opportunities within the security industry.

For further information regarding course dates, prices, accommodation, funding options, or eligibility requirements, please contact us using the details below.

Contact Us

Website:

<https://www.horizon.uk.com>

Course Dates & Prices:

<https://horizon.uk.com/dates%2C-prices-and-info>

Training Location Information:

<https://horizon.uk.com/training-location>

Training Terms & Conditions:

<https://horizon.uk.com/training-t%26cs-1>

Email:

training@horizon.uk.com

Telephone:

+44 (0) 1389 755551

ELCAS Provider Number:

5805

Information contained within this guide was correct at the time of publication. Horizon reserves the right to amend course content, delivery methods, dates, prices, and entry requirements where necessary. For the latest information, please visit www.horizon.uk.com.