

Uniform Requirements for Private Security FAQs

1. When is a badge and patch required?

BSIS licensees must abide by badge and patch requirements if they carry a baton or exposed firearm [BPC Section 7582.27] or wear a badge [BPC Section 7582.26(f)].

2. Can security guards wear a badge?

Yes, however no licensee shall use or wear a badge unless they are engaging in guard or patrol work and while wearing a distinctive uniform. All badges must be approved by the Bureau as noted above [BPC 7582.26(f)].

3. Can I wear a badge on a chain around my neck or on my belt?

A badge can only be worn on the upper left breast of a distinctive uniform [BPC 7582.26(f)].

4. Do Proprietary Private Security Officers (PSOs) have to wear a badge or patch while on duty?

No, PSOs are only required to wear a distinctive uniform clearly identifying them as a security officer [BPC Section 7574.01(g)(1)].

5. Do I have to return my uniform, badge, or patch to my employer if I quit or I am terminated?

Yes, failing to return any uniforms, badges, patches, or equipment to your employer could trigger a complaint against your license.

6. Can I carry an exposed firearm or baton while in plain clothes?

No, all licensees who carry an exposed firearm or baton must have an active BSIS license, relevant firearm or baton permit, and comply with uniform requirements [BPC Section 7582.26 (i)].

7. Where can PPO licensees submit their badge, patch and cap insignias for review?

Badge, patch and cap insignia review process instructions can be found at https://www.bsis.ca.gov/industries/app_bpci.shtml.

For additional questions or concerns, please contact the Bureau at BadgeandPatch@dca.ca.gov.