

Practical guidelines for “People Scanning” – when using Hand Held Metal Detectors

Hand held metal detectors offer an inexpensive means of scanning persons for concealed knives and other weapons, foil wrapped drugs and a wide range of other metallic objects ...but there are a few important things that the operator must consider whilst using them...

What type of objects are you looking for?

- Knives or other weapons? - a general purpose scanner should be sensitive enough, but choose a unit from a reliable manufacturer / supplier. Many budget price units produce erratic results, are prone to early failure and typically offer very poor battery life, which can make them more expensive than professional quality units over time.
- Smaller items? - a very high sensitivity unit (carefully calibrated) may be required

Who will be scanned?

- everyone?
- randomly selected persons? - how will the selection be made?
- how will you handle people in wheelchairs, etc?

What procedures apply / what course of action will you take when an object is detected?

How to scan the body quickly and efficiently without causing offence or touching the body;

Touching the body of the person being scanned, could land the operator in trouble. It may cause offence, or in the worst case, could even lead to legal prosecution. The professional scanning pattern as published by Garrett Metal Detectors (see diagram below), offers maximum coverage of the body with minimum time and effort.

