

State of South Carolina

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Workers' Compensation Commission

ADVISORY

**Metal Detection & Screening at the Commission's
Offices in Columbia**

September 17, 2025

As a part of the Commission's initiative to increase security at the Columbia location, the Commission will implement magnetic screening for visitors beginning October 1, 2025.

Visitors will enter the main lobby through a metal detector. They will be scanned for concealed weapons and other unauthorized items. Those who do not successfully pass through the metal detector will be subject to screening by a hand-held magnetic wand. Visitors not successfully passing the screening using a hand-held wand will be denied access to the reception area until the weapon and/or contraband has been removed from their person and stored offsite. For those who have a medical condition that would prohibit them from passing through the metal detector, they may be individually inspected using the hand-held magnetic wand.

The inspection of all bags, briefcases, purses, back-packs, sacks, etc. by the Commission's security contractor will also be required. Those declining a search of these items will not be permitted to bring the articles into the Commission and may be asked to store the items offsite.

Additional information regarding the Commission's metal detection screening policies and procedures is attached to this advisory.

Please direct any questions or comments to:

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Metal Detection & Screening Policy

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Policy Statement

The Commission has noticed an increase in threats of physical violence directed towards its staff and Commissioners. It currently secures access to its suite using physical security measures such as ID badges and door stops. Internal Commission hallways are monitored by a video recording system. Security Contractors monitor the premises and are present in the reception area to deter violent acts and subdue an active threat in the event of an emergency. To augment its current security protocols and fulfill its duty under the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) general duty clause and the South Carolina Occupational safety and Health Act (SC OSHA), the Commission is also implementing a metal detection and screening policy to further secure the premises for visitors and litigants. Metal detection equipment will be operated to the best of staff's ability to avoid major inconvenience to staff and the public.

Effective Date: October 1, 2025

Standard Operating Procedures

I. Definitions

Unauthorized Items- Items including but not limited to questionable articles such as hammers, box cutters, utility cutters, tasers, scissors, and any other items identified as a threat by Commission security.

Weapon- Items including but not limited to guns (including pellet and BB guns), explosives, martial arts weapons, batons, mace, ammunition, electric weapons, knives, brass knuckles, and pepper spray.

II. Hours of Operation

A. All members of the public entering the Commission's reception area and hearing rooms will be subject to metal detection and personal property screening during the hours of 8:30am – 5:00pm.

III. Screening Protocols

A. Beginning on the effective date of this policy, all patrons and visitors will be required to pass through a metal detector prior to entering the Commission's reception area. The metal detector will show zones of activity that indicate specific areas of the body where metal is present.

B. Prior to passing through the metal detector, all patrons and visitors will be asked to place electronic devices and metallic objects in a basket and walk through the structure. Items placed in the basket may be retrieved by the owner after passing through the metal detector.

C. If the metal detector alarms, the individual will be asked to step aside to be screened by Commission security using a hand-held magnetic wand.

D. If the hand-held magnetic wand alarms and a weapon and/or unauthorized item is detected, the individual will be required to exit the premises and store the item(s) offsite before returning to the Commission and entering the reception area.

E. All baggage, briefcases, purses, back-packs, sacks, etc. will be inspected for weapons and unauthorized items by the Commission's security contractor at the metal detection post. Persons declining a search of these items will not be permitted to bring the articles into the Commission and may be asked to store them offsite.

F. Individuals with disabilities are also subject to screening that is appropriate for their condition. If an individual has a pacemaker, medical condition, medical implant, appear handicapped, or uses a wheelchair, they may be individually inspected with a hand-held magnetic wand in lieu of passing through the metal detector.

G. Persons with strollers, child carriers, and/or wheelchairs will be screened by standard procedures. Children may either walk through the metal detector or be carried by the person accompanying the child. If the person accompanying the child prefers not to remove them from the stroller or child carrier, they will be subject to search using the hand-held magnetic wand.

H. Law enforcement personnel in civilian attire or uniformed, who are armed, will be required to pass through the metal detector and produce a law enforcement photo ID card to retain their weapon(s) inside the Commission facility. The officer is responsible for maintaining control of his/her weapon.