

Section 64 – Prisoner Transport

New York State Law Enforcement Accreditation Program

64.1 Prisoner Transport and Safety

OPERATIONS

STANDARD 64.1 The agency has a written directive that prescribes the security and control of prisoners being transported. The directive shall:

- A. Require the search of transport vehicles prior to and after transporting prisoners;
- B. Require a search of the prisoner by the transporting officer before being transported;
- C. Govern situations permitting transport of prisoners by officers of the opposite sex;
- D. Prescribe procedures for transporting/handling sick, injured, or impaired prisoners, including acquiring medical attention as soon as reasonably possible for anyone in custody that is complaining or exhibiting any symptoms of anything that may have the potential to be life threatening (e.g. breathing difficulties, chest pain, severe lethargy, head injury); and
- E. Identify actions for the transporting officer to take following an escape of a prisoner while being transported.

*Commentary: The intent of this standard is to direct members in proper transporting methods to include handcuffs, restraints, seating arrangements, security and to ensure the medical well-being of prisoners to the extent possible. **This standard applies to any person in police custody for any reason.***

Compliance Verification Strategies

Assessors may seek to verify agency compliance with this standard by using one or more of the strategies listed below. There may be other strategies identified by the agency which could also be acceptable.

1. A copy of the written directive is available for review.
2. Interview(s) with agency personnel involved in the transport process to verify their knowledge of and compliance with the directive.
3. Review logs or other documentation used by the agency to verify compliance with the directive.
4. Interview(s) with medical personnel used by the agency in medical situations can be conducted to verify compliance with the directive.
5. Review agency reports involving prisoner escapes to verify compliance with the written directive.
6. If the directive involves an interagency agreement, the assessor may contact representatives of the other agencies to verify that it is in place and understood.