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Definitions

"Director" – the Director of police services referred to in section 39 (1) of the *Police Act*.

"Officer" - a constable appointed under the *Police Act* or an enforcement Officer appointed under s. 18.1 of the *Police Act*.

"Restraint" – any mechanical device or system that when used in its ordinary and intended manner restricts the normal physical activity or range of motion of an individual in part or in whole.

Standards

The chief constable, chief officer, or commissioner:

Approved Restraints

- (1) Must ensure that the only Restraints carried or used by Officers of their police force have been approved by the Director. See APPENDIX "A" for a list of approved Restraints, their descriptions, and approved specifications.

Maintenance of Restraints

- (2) Must ensure that each Restraint in the inventory of their police force is maintained in good working order.
- (3) Must ensure that each Restraint is securely stored when not in use.

Training, qualification, and requalification

- (4) Must ensure an Officer successfully completes a training course required by the chief constable, chief officer or commissioner and is qualified to use a Restraint before the Officer may be authorized to carry and use that Restraint under Standard (1) above. The training must include the following safety components:
 - (a) Handcuffs, Leg Restraints, and Whole-Body Restraint Devices:
 - (i) The Officer must check each applied Restraint device for a safe level of tightness, in that circulation will not be dangerously restricted; and

- (ii) The double lock mechanism must be immediately engaged in all applications;
or
 - (iii) When the Officer reasonably perceives that violent subject behaviour makes engaging the double lock mechanism too difficult at that time, the Officer shall engage the mechanism as soon as is practicable after the violent behaviour subsides or the Officer(s) have established sufficient control of the subject.
- (b) Disposable Restraint Device:
- (i) The Officer must check each applied Restraint device for a safe level of tightness, in that circulation will not be dangerously restricted; and
 - (ii) At least one Officer present with a subject(s) wearing a disposable Restraint device must have a tool suitable for cutting and removing the device in their possession.
- (c) Leg Restraints:
- (i) Can be used in conjunction with handcuffs and full body Restraints, but the two devices cannot be joined by any means to complete a maximal Restraint or “hog tie”.
- (d) Spit Hood/Mask:
- (i) Must not be used on any person who is unconscious, vomiting or noticeably bleeding from the mouth or nose causing a risk of respiratory distress or asphyxiation, or in obvious need of medical attention;
 - (ii) Shall be immediately removed from a subject who loses consciousness or develops any difficulties mentioned in standard 4(c)(i); and
 - (iii) Anyone wearing a spit hood shall be kept under the constant supervision of trained personnel and their observations of the subject wearing the spit hood must be recorded in writing in five-minute intervals.
- (5) Must ensure any Officer authorized to carry and use a Restraint under Standard (4) above is requalified to use that restraint at least once every three years and that training contains the safety considerations in standards 4(a) through (d).
- (6) Must ensure that written records are maintained of the Restraints training and requalification courses completed by each Officer in the police force.

Off duty carrying of Restraints

- (7) Must ensure that Officers carry their issued Restraints only when on assigned duty, unless otherwise authorized in writing or described in policy.

Policies and procedures

- (8) Must ensure policies and procedures are consistent with these *BC Provincial Policing Standards*.

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Appendix “A” for BCPPS 1.2.3 Restraints

List of Approved Restraints

Version 1.0

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RESTRAINT DEVICE	DESCRIPTION	APPROVED SPECIFICATIONS
Handcuffs	Restraint devices designed to secure an individual's wrists in proximity to each other. Comprised of two ring-shaped cuffs, linked together by a short chain. Each cuff has a rotating arm which engages with a ratchet that prevents it from being opened once closed around a person's wrist. Once applied, the cuff can only be removed by key.	<p>Approved models may be fabricated of metal or rigid carbon fiber materials.</p> <p>Must have a double-lock feature on each cuff which when engaged stops the cuff from ratcheting tighter to prevent the wearer from tightening them.</p> <p>The cuffs are joined by a length of chain, each end attached to a 360-degree swivel pin, no longer than four inches (11 cm).</p>
Disposable Restraint Device	Designed to be a back-up handcuffs and a fast means of securing prisoners in a mass arrest situation. These one-time use handcuffs can be made from various materials and are disposable after one use as they must be cut from the subject's wrists using an appropriate cutting tool.	Approved models are made of disposable one-time use nylon braid, thin plastic fastening straps where two straps can be tethered together to form one pair of disposable restraints, and/or commercially produced plastic handcuffs that are disposed of after one use.
Leg Restraints	The leg Restraint, commonly referred to as leg irons, is a device used to restrict the movements of an individual's legs when exhibiting violent behavior. They can also be used on a subject's legs during transport when a greater risk of violence or escape is suspected.	<p>Approved models are fabricated of metal, rigid carbon fiber material, or nylon strapping with affixed cam-lock or alligator clip buckles as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leg Restraints can be similar in design to steel handcuffs, with larger ratcheted cuffs to fit on the ankles. They must have a double-lock feature on each cuff which when engaged stops the cuff from ratcheting tighter to prevent the wearer from tightening them. The cuffs are joined by a length of chain, each end attached to a 360-degree swivel pin, no longer than twenty inches (6 cm). • They can also be fabricated of a one to two inch (2.54 to 5.08 cm) wide single strap of nylon material, formed into a loop through

		<p>a cam-lock or alligator clip buckle which is used to secure the subject's legs.</p>
Spit Hood/Mask	<p>Spit hoods or spit masks (and occasionally bite guards) are devices intended to cover the mouth, face and sometimes the head of a restrained person in order to prevent them spitting bodily fluids at or biting others.</p>	<p>Approved models are made of a light-weight nylon mesh-type fabric and are designed to fit comfortably over the head and neck. They must allow the subject the ability to see out and Officers to see the subject's face.</p> <p>Spit hoods must not restrict the subject's ability to breath while helping to restrict the expulsion of body fluids from the subject to other persons nearby.</p> <p>Certain approved models can be affixed under the arms for additional security but must never be secured around the wearer's neck.</p> <p>The design and fabrication of this device must allow bodily fluids from the nose and mouth of the subject to drain without significant pooling which could lead to asphyxiation. Models that are fabricated of non-breathable materials and allow pooling of bodily fluids within the device are not approved for use by police.</p>
Whole Body Restraint Devices	<p>Restraint devices that are more complicated to apply than traditional Restraints, requiring multiple personnel, and consist of several Restraints that more greatly affect the ability of the subject to move. These Restraint devices are reserved for use on high risk, violent or self-harming subjects.</p>	<p>Approved models are of the following specifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A shoulder harness, a binding for the ankles, and a blanket with straps that encircles and restrains the legs. The harness and the ankle strap attach to loops on the blanket with carabiners, which helps to keep subjects from moving; • A flat board with multiple point Restraint systems and a pillow to protect the head. The board is coated for easy cleaning and the runners on the bottom elevate the board for easy access to multiple handles; • A specially built chair on at least two wheels with soft Restraint straps intended to help control the arms, legs, and torso of violent, self-destructive subjects;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A garment shaped like a jacket with long sleeves that surpass the tips of the wearer's fingers and cross the arms against the wearer's chest. The ends of the sleeves are ties to the back of the jacket, ensuring the arms are close to the chest with as little movement as possible. Its most typical use is restraining people who may cause harm to themselves or others;• A belt of two to six inches wide (5.08 to 15.24 cm) that is secured in the back using a lockable main buckle and has two hand Restraint tethers with smaller lockable buckles that allow for one-way restricted movement and have a single handcuff on each side that is equipped with a double lock feature. All locks are released with a standard handcuff key. The Hand Restraint Waist Belt enables an escorting Officer to control a subject's movement while allowing the subject enough movement to be fingerprinted, use the bathroom facilities, eat, and/or perform other required movements for transport and processing. This device comes in two sizes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Standard belt fits 29 to 58-inch (74 to 150 cm) waists; and○ Smaller fits 23 to 40-inch (59 to 101 cm) waists.
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