

COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION FOR CORRECTIONS

Federal Bureau of Prisons
Federal Correctional Institution Fort Worth
Ft. Worth, Texas

June 5-7, 2012

Visiting Committee Findings

Non-Mandatory Standards

Noncompliance

Standard # 4-4129 Revised January 2008.

THE NUMBER OF INMATES DOES NOT EXCEED THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE INMATE POPULATION AS BASED ON THE STANDARDS COMPLIANT BED CAPACITY (SCBC) FORMULA.

FINDINGS:

Standard 4-4129 was deleted from the standards by the standards Committee in July 2012.

Standard # 4-4132 Revised January 2007.

CELLS/ROOMS USED FOR HOUSING INMATES SHALL PROVIDE AT A MINIMUM, 25 SQUARE FEET OF UNENCUMBERED SPACE PER OCCUPANT. UNENCUMBERED SPACE IS USABLE SPACE THAT IS NOT ENCUMBERED BY FURNISHINGS OR FIXTURES. AT LEAST ONE DIMENSION OF THE UNENCUMBERED SPACE IS NO LESS THAN SEVEN FEET. IN DETERMINING UNENCUMBERED SPACE IN THE CELL OR ROOM, THE TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE IS OBTAINED AND THE SQUARE FOOTAGE OF FIXTURES AND THE EQUIPMENT IS SUBTRACTED. ALL FIXTURES AND EQUIPMENT MUST BE IN OPERATIONAL POSITION AND MUST PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING MINIMUMS PER PERSON:

- BED
- PLUMBING FIXTURES (IF INSIDE THE CELL/ROOM)
- DESK
- LOCKER
- CHAIR OR STOOL

FINDINGS:

The unencumbered square footage in the Building 4 housing units is 21 sq. ft. per occupant and the unencumbered square footage in Building 2 is 23 sq. ft. per occupant. The standard requires 25 square feet.

AGENCY RESPONSE

Waiver

Although the unencumbered space at FCI Fort Worth, as noted in the VCR, was not met, (ranged from 21 square feet per occupant in the Building 4 housing unit and 23 square feet per occupant in Building 2; we manage our inmate population by providing a variety of work, educational, and programing opportunities which allows inmates to be active and out of their cells approximately 16 hours per day. By promoting and encouraging positive interaction with others on a daily basis, inmate idleness is reduced. In order to accomplish this management philosophy, the following is a list of areas that enables us to accomplish our mission:

- Each housing area has common areas for unstructured leisure activities and for inmate to inmate interaction.
- A myriad of educational and vocational programs are offered and available five days a week, including evenings.
- All medically able, sentenced inmates are required to work (except those who, for security or educational reasons, are unable to do so) and do so an average of seven hours per day.
- Recreation programs are offered and available seven days a week, including evenings.
- Religious activities are available seven days a week, including evenings.
- Psychology provides mental health and substance abuse programs to all inmates.
- All staff are trained for and practice effective communication skills enabling most grievances to be resolved informally.

Indicators from the programs/activities/illnesses associated with overcrowding, i.e., lack of access to programming; violence; and communicable diseases; to name a few, are not present in the inmate population. For example: 677 inmates out of 1,779 current population (35.7%) have some type of formal education diploma or certificate, while 1008 inmates (57%) are currently enrolled in an education/vocational program. The SIS reflects 11 assaults with an average daily population of 1669 (.001% of ADP) which is below average as reflected in the VCR. During the reporting period there were 0 new cases of TB.

AUDITOR RESPONSE

The square footage required by the standard was not met, but the unencumbered square footage was quite close to the 25 square foot requirement. The amount of out-of-cell time coupled with ample program and activity opportunities make the shortfall less of a concern. I agree with the waiver request.

Standard #4-4138

INMATES HAVE ACCESS TO OPERABLE WASH BASINS WITH HOT AND COLD RUNNING WATER IN THE HOUSING UNITS AT A MINIMUM RATIO OF ONE BASIN FOR EVERY 12 OCCUPANTS, UNLESS NATIONAL OR STATE BUILDING OR HEALTH CODES SPECIFY A DIFFERENT RATIO.

FINDINGS:

The ratio of washbasins to inmates does not meet the ratio called for in the standard. Overall, the ratio of washbasins to inmates is 1:18 and the standard requires it be 1:8.

AGENCY RESPONSE

Waiver

FCI Fort Worth consists of five general population housing units and one medical unit in four different buildings and a Special Housing Unit and Jail Unit in one building. Units are equipped with operable washbasins with hot and cold running water at a ratio of 1:18. The ratio during the time of the audit was 1:18 and the National Plumbing Code required is 1:15. In these instances, the institution monitors the number of inmates housed in those areas to better accommodate inmate access to these facilities. We manage our inmate population by providing a variety of work opportunities and programs at varying times throughout the day, alleviating the use of toilets and hand-washing facilities at the same time.

1. Inmates spend an average of 14.5 hours per day out of their cells. Inmates are only confined to their cells from 4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.
2. Work is another mitigating factor in eliminating any peak demand for showers.
10am - 11:30am/pm 3pm - 5:45pm 8pm to 6-6:30am

3. All medically able, sentenced inmates are required to work (exceptions are those who for security or educational are unable to do so). Most inmates are assigned institutional jobs such as food service, orderly, facilities, or warehouse workers and work a minimum of seven hours per day. Inmates work a variety of shifts that include evenings and weekends. Additionally, the institution does have a Federal Prisons Industries (FPI) Electronic Recycle factory, an outside detail which will potentially employ more than one inmate.

In absence of a satellite camp facility, approximately 40 eligible inmates are assigned to work outside of the institution on the prison grounds maintaining the grounds and outside buildings. Inmates are also assigned as Inmate Care Assistants to assist inmates housed in the health services unit.

4. We encourage the inmate population to participate in educational, recreational, religious and psychology programs to better manage inmate idleness which effectively reduces the number of inmates needing to use these facilities at the same time.
5. In conjunction with security and management procedures, inmates have access to operable washbasins with hot and cold running water 24 hours per day, seven days per week, and are able to use these facilities without staff assistance when they are confined to their cells or sleeping areas. With these procedures, the facility does not experience long waiting lines, nor have we received any complaints that inmates do not have access to these facilities when needed.

AUDITOR RESPONSE

The BOP uses the National Plumbing Code of 1:15 for washbasin/inmate ratio. The shortfall at FCI Fort Worth was quite close to this standard. These facilities were available for inmates 24 hours a day, thus making it less of a concern. I agree with the waiver request.

Standard #4-4139

INMATES HAVE ACCESS TO OPERABLE SHOWERS WITH TEMPERATURE-CONTROLLED HOT AND COLD RUNNING WATER, AT A MINIMUM RATIO OF ONE SHOWER FOR EVERY EIGHT INMATES, UNLESS NATIONAL OR STATE BUILDING OR HEALTH CODES SPECIFY A DIFFERENT RATIO. WATER FOR SHOWERS IS THERMOSTATICALLY CONTROLLED TO TEMPERATURES RANGING FROM 100 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT TO 120 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF INMATES AND TO PROMOTE HYGIENIC PRACTICES.

FINDINGS:

The standard requires a shower to inmate ratio of 1:8. The facility has a ratio of 1:17.

AGENCY RESPONSE

Waiver

Although the shower ratio at 1:8, as noted in the VCR, was not met, (ratio of 1:17), we manage our inmate population by providing a variety of work, educational, and programing opportunities which allows inmates to be active and out of their cells approximately 16 hours per day (during this time showers are available for use by the inmates), alleviating the need for usage of showers at the same time. In order to accomplish this management philosophy, the following is a list of areas that enables us to accomplish our mission:

- A myriad of educational and vocational programs are offered and available five days a week, including evenings.
- All medically able, sentenced inmates are required to work (except those who, for security or educational purposes, are unable to do so) and do so an average seven hours per day.
- Recreation programs are offered and available seven days a week, including evenings.
- Religious activities are available seven days a week, including evenings.
- Psychology provides mental health and substance abuse programs to all inmates.
- All staff are trained for and practice effective communication skills enabling most grievances to be resolved informally.

With these procedures, the facility does not experience waiting lines, nor have we received any complaints that inmates do not have access to these facilities when needed.

AUDITOR RESPONSE

While the number of showers required by the standard was not met, the facilities were available throughout the day for inmates, hence making this less of a concern. The auditor received no complaints from inmates regarding the shortfall. I agree with the waiver request.

**COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION FOR CORRECTIONS
PANEL ACTION REPORT**

Hilton Americas
Houston, Texas

January 27, 2013

Federal Bureau of Prison
Federal Correctional Institution- Fort Worth
Fort Worth, Texas

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Panel Action

Standard # 4-4132	Waiver Request Granted
Standard # 4-4138	Waiver Request Granted
Standard # 4-4139	Waiver Request Granted

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