

State of Iowa Department of Corrections

Policy and Procedures

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Applicability: DOC

Policy Code: Public Access

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Chapter 2: PHYSICAL PLANT

Sub Chapter: ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Related DOC Policies: N/A

Administrative Code Reference: N/A

Subject: ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

ACA Standards: 5-ACI-1A-04, 5-ACI-2D-01, 5-ACI-2D-02, 5-ACI-2D-03, 5-ACI-2D-06, 5-ACI-2D-07, 5-ACI-2D-08, 5-ACI-2D-09, 5-ACI-2D-10

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Authority:

1. PURPOSE

To describe the minimum requirements for environmental conditions in Iowa Department of Corrections (IDOC) institutions.

2. POLICY

Each DOC facility shall maintain compliance with Federal, State, and Local code, rules, and regulations concerning the facility's physical plant. Newly constructed facilities shall be designed and built in accordance with applicable American Correctional Association standards. Whenever extensive reconstruction or remodeling is undertaken, current ACA standards shall be reviewed and, when feasible, implemented. Existing facilities which do not meet ACA standards shall, when feasible, implement operational procedures which serve to mitigate deficiencies in the physical plant.

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A. Code Enforcement

B. ACA Standards

3. DEFINITIONS – As used in this document:

- A. Decibel – A unit for measuring the volume of sound.
- B. Footcandle – A unit of measure of light equal to the amount of direct light thrown by one international candle on a surface one foot away.
- C. Independent Qualified Source - May be a private contractor or other person who has expertise and/or training in the applicable field. As approved by the Director for specific purposes, this person may be employed by the IDOC or the State of Iowa, provided that he or she is not under the authority of the institution administrator and that the report generated is referred to higher authorities within the Department independent of influence by the Warden or staff, no matter who generates the report.
- D. Qualified Source – May be a private contractor or institutional employee who has training in the applicable field.
- E. See IDOC Policy **AD-GA-16** for additional Definitions.

4. PROCEDURES

A. Code Enforcement

The IDOC will consistently enforce the design standards and construction codes to provide incarcerated individuals and staff with a proper environment in which to live and work.

B. ACA Standards

Whenever feasible, the IDOC will address the following standards whenever an institution is renovated, has new additions or has new construction.

1. Lighting

- a. Lighting throughout each institution is determined by the task to be performed and other relevant factors. Lighting in incarcerated individual rooms, at desk level and in personal

grooming areas, is at least 20 footcandles. A random sample of ten percent of the total number of rooms/cells in each housing unit is required in order to demonstrate compliance with this policy and standard. Documentation of these lighting level assessments will be forwarded to the Warden. **(5-ACI-2D-01)**

- b. Lighting in incarcerated individual rooms/cells is at least 20 footcandles at desk level and in personal grooming areas, as documented by a qualified source. **(5-ACI-2D-02)**
- c. All incarcerated individual rooms and dayroom spaces designed and constructed after July 1, 2005 will provide access to natural light by means of at least three square feet of transparent glazing, plus two additional square feet of transparent glazing per incarcerated individual in the room/cell with three or more incarcerated individuals. (Existing, Renovation, Addition Only) **(5-ACI-2D-03)**.
- d. Each dayroom provides incarcerated individuals with access to natural light by means of at least 12 square feet of transparent glazing in the dayroom, plus two additional square feet of transparent glazing per incarcerated individual whose room/cell is dependent on access to natural light through the dayroom. (New Construction Only)**(5-ACI-2D-06)**

2. Noise Levels

- a. Noise levels in each incarcerated individual housing unit will be monitored in order to assess compliance with ACA standards.
- b. Levels of sound change from moment to moment and this variation must be accounted for in the measuring of sound levels. For this reason, constant low level background noise as well as single event noise exposure levels will be measured and recorded as an average noise level of a ten second test.

- c. As incarcerated individuals assigned to general population areas generally have reasonable access to and from their rooms or cells, sound level testing will be conducted at or near the center of room or cell with all appliances turned off.
- d. A random sample of ten percent of the total number of rooms in each housing unit is required in order to demonstrate compliance with this policy.
- e. Tests shall be conducted no less than semi-annually by the Plant Operations Manager or designated staff. Record retention will be completed by the Plant Operations Manager.
- f. Noise levels in incarcerated individual housing units do not exceed 70 dBA (A Scale) in daytime and 45 dBA (A Scale) at night. **(5-ACI-2D-07)**

3. Air Flow

- a. Incarcerated individual rooms, officer stations, and dining areas designed and constructed, renovated, or in which additions are constructed after July 1, 2005 will provide at least fifteen cubic feet of outside or re-circulated filtered air per minute per occupant.
- b. Those constructed prior to July 1, 2005 must provide at least ten cubic feet of fresh or re-circulated filtered air per minute per occupant.
- c. All testing must be conducted by an independent, qualified source. **(5-ACI-2D-08)**
- d. Circulation is at least ten cubic feet of fresh or re-circulated filtered air per minute per occupant for incarcerated individual rooms/cells, officer stations, and dining areas, as documented by a qualified source and should be checked not less than once per accreditation cycle. (Existing)**(5-ACI-2D-09)**

4. Temperature Control

- a. Indoor living and work areas will be temperature controlled or provide access to passive or mechanical ventilation to ensure appropriate temperatures are maintained.
- b. Temperatures in indoor living and work areas are appropriate to the summer and winter comfort zones. **(5-ACI-2D-10)**

5. Environmental Sustainability

The IDOC will examine and where feasible implement strategies that promote recycling, energy and water conservation, pollution reduction and utilization of renewable energy alternatives. **(5-ACI-1A-04)**