



Home Office

Detention Services Order 04/2003

Accommodation: Lighting, Heating And Ventilation

January 2017



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Document Details

Process: To provide guidance on the minimum requirements for rooms used as sleeping accommodation, removal from association, temporary confinement and application of special control or restraint in Immigration Removal Centres.

Implementation Date: April 2003 (reissued January 2017)

Review Date: January 2019

Version: 2.0

Contains Mandatory Instructions

For Action: Suppliers operating in immigration removal centres.

For Information: Home Office staff operating in or auditing immigration removal centres.

Owner: Alan Gibson, Head of Detention Operations

Contact Point: Simon Barrett, Removals, Enforcement & Detention Policy

Processes Affected: Accommodation standards

Assumptions: N/A

Notes: N/A

Instruction

Introduction

1. Detention Centre Rule 15 includes the provision that no room shall be used as sleeping accommodation, or for removal from association (rule 40), temporary confinement (rule 42) or application of special control or restraint (rule 43), unless the Secretary of State has certified that its lighting, heating and ventilation are adequate for health. Minimum auditable requirement no. 7 in the operating standard on accommodation states that lighting, heating and ventilation must be to the standards described in this order. Like the operating standard, the order is subject to audit programmes.

Purpose

2. The purpose of this instruction is to ensure that all accommodation provided at Immigration Removal Centres is compliant with Detention Centre Rule 15 and published Operating Standards.

Procedures

Lighting

3. Artificial lighting must provide up to 150 lux average at desk height. The light levels may be verified by a handheld light meter. The meter must be set down; the measurer and their shadower must stand aside. DCOs must ensure that any electronic tags are identified and removed from detainees at the point of reception into a centre.

Heating

4. Rooms must be maintained at a minimum temperature of $21^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$. The maximum temperature must not exceed 28°C . A maximum temperature design risk (failure rate) of 30 days in a ten year period is acceptable. Where comfort conditioning using mechanical cooling is necessary, the summertime design temperature of $21^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ must be used.

Ventilation

5. For rooms with no natural ventilation requiring mechanical supply and extract ventilation, the minimum fresh air rate must be eight litres/second/person where no smoking is permitted. Where smoking is permitted, the fresh air rate shall be increased in accordance with CIBSE Guides and the Building Regulations Part F1 recommendations.

6. There must not be an accumulation of moisture that could lead to mould growth or pollutants that could cause a health hazard.

Operating Standards

7. Further information may be obtained from the Detention Services Operating Standards on <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/detention-services-operating-standards-manual>.

Revision History

| Review date | Reviewed by | Review outcome | Next review |
|--------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| January 2017 | J Domingos | Reformat | January 2019 |
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