



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Office of Professional Responsibility
Inspections and Detention Oversight Division
Washington, DC 20536-5501

Office of Detention Oversight
Compliance Inspection

Enforcement and Removal Operations
ERO Houston Field Office

Houston Contract Detention Facility
Houston, Texas

January 31 - February 3, 2022

COMPLIANCE INSPECTION
of the
HOUSTON CONTRACT DETENTION FACILITY
Houston, Texas

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COMPLIANCE INSPECTION TEAM MEMBERS



Acting Team Lead	ODO
Inspections and Compliance Specialist	ODO
Inspections and Compliance Specialist	ODO
Contractor	Creative Corrections

FACILITY OVERVIEW

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) Office of Detention Oversight (ODO) conducted a compliance inspection of the Houston Contract Detention Facility (HCDF) in Houston, Texas, from January 31 to February 3, 2022.¹ The facility opened in 1984 and is owned and operated by CoreCivic. The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at HCDF in 1986 under the oversight of ERO’s Field Office Director in Houston (ERO Houston). The facility operates under the Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS) 2011 (Revised 2016).

ERO has assigned deportation officers and a detention services manager to the facility. An HCDF warden handles daily facility operations and manages █████ support personnel. Trinity Services Group provides food services, ICE Health Service Corps provides medical care, and CoreCivic provides commissary services at the facility. The facility was accredited by the American Correctional Association in 2019 and the National Commission on Correctional Health Care in 2021. In August 2021, HCDF was audited for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and was DHS PREA certified.

Capacity and Population Statistics	Quantity
ICE Bed Capacity ²	█████
Average ICE Population ³	█████
Adult Male Population (as of January 31, 2022)	█████
Adult Female Population (as of January 31, 2022)	█████

During its last inspection, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, ODO found two deficiencies in the following areas: Admission and Release (1); and Funds and Personal Property (1).

¹ This facility holds both male and female detainees with low, medium-low, and medium-high security classification levels for periods greater than 72 hours.

² Data Source: ERO Facility List as of January 31, 2022.

³ *Ibid.*

COMPLIANCE INSPECTION PROCESS

ODO conducts oversight inspections of ICE detention facilities with an average daily population greater than 10, and where detainees are housed for over 72 hours, to assess compliance with ICE national detention standards. These inspections focus solely on facility compliance with detention standards that directly affect detainee life, health, safety, and/or well-being.⁴

ODO identifies violations of ICE detention standards, ICE policies, or operational procedures, as "deficiencies." ODO highlights instances when the facility resolves deficiencies prior to completion of the ODO inspection. Where applicable, these corrective actions are annotated with "C" under the *Compliance Inspection Findings* section of this report.

Upon completion of each inspection, ODO conducts a closeout briefing with facility and local ERO officials to discuss preliminary findings. A summary of these findings is shared with ERO management officials. Thereafter, ODO provides ICE leadership with a final compliance inspection report to: (i) assist ERO in developing and initiating corrective action plans; and (ii) provide senior executives with an independent assessment of facility operations. ODO's findings inform ICE executive management in its decision-making to better allocate resources across the agency's entire detention inventory.

ODO was unable to conduct an on-site inspection of this facility, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and instead, conducted a remote inspection of the facility. During this remote inspection, ODO interviewed facility staff, ERO field office staff, and detainees, reviewed files and detention records, and was able to assess compliance for at least 90 percent or more of the ICE national detention standards reviewed during the inspection.

⁴ ODO reviews the facility's compliance with selected standards in their entirety.

FINDINGS BY PERFORMANCE-BASED NATIONAL DETENTION STANDARDS (PBNDS) 2011 (REVISED 2016) MAJOR CATEGORIES

PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016) Standards Inspected ^{5,6}	Deficiencies
Part 1 - Safety	
Emergency Plans	0
Environmental Health and Safety	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 2 - Security	
Admission and Release	0
Custody Classification System	0
Funds and Personal Property	1
Post Orders	0
Searches of Detainees	0
Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention	0
Special Management Units	0
Use of Force and Restraints	0
Sub-Total	1
Part 4 - Care	
Food Service	0
Hunger Strikes	0
Medical Care	0
Medical Care (Women)	0
Personal Hygiene	0
Significant Self-harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 5 - Activities	
Correspondence and Other Mail	0
Trips for Non-Medical Emergencies	0
Marriage Requests	0
Voluntary Work Program	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 6 - Justice	
Legal Rights Group Presentations	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 7 - Administration and Management	

⁵ For greater detail on ODO's findings, see the *Compliance Inspection Findings* section of this report.

⁶ Beginning in FY 2022, ODO instituted a process of rotating all standards on a 3-year basis. As a result, some standard components may not be present in all inspections.

Detention Files	0
Interviews and Tours	0
Detainee Transfers	0
Sub-Total	0
Total Deficiencies	1

DETAINEE RELATIONS

ODO interviewed 12 detainees, who each voluntarily agreed to participate. None of the detainees made allegations of discrimination, mistreatment, or abuse. All detainees reported satisfaction with facility services. ODO conducted detainee interviews via video teleconference.

COMPLIANCE INSPECTION FINDINGS

SECURITY

FUNDS AND PERSONAL PROPERTY (FPP)

ODO interviewed the classification supervisor, reviewed [REDACTED] detainee detention files, and found in [REDACTED] files, the facility did not record the time of admission on the detainee personal property inventory forms (**Deficiency FPP-85⁷**). **This is a repeat deficiency.**

CONCLUSION

During this inspection, ODO assessed the facility's compliance with 24 standards under PBND 2011 (Revised 2016) and found the facility in compliance with 23 of those standards. ODO found one deficiency in the remaining standard. ODO commends HCDF staff for their responsiveness during this inspection. ODO recommends ERO Houston work with the facility to resolve any deficiencies that remain outstanding in accordance with contractual obligations. ODO has not received the uniform corrective action plan for ODO's last inspection of HCDF in July 2021.

Compliance Inspection Results Compared	FY 2021 PBND 2011 (Revised 2016)	FY 2022 PBND 2011 (Revised 2016)
Standards Reviewed	14	24
Deficient Standards	2	1
Overall Number of Deficiencies	2	1
Repeat Deficiencies	0	1
Areas of Concern	0	0
Corrective Actions	0	0
Facility Rating	N/A	Superior

⁷ "The personal property inventory form must contain the following information at a minimum:

1. date and time of admission." See ICE PBND 2011 (Revised 2016), Standard, Funds and Personal Property, Section (V)(I)(1).