



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

**Office of Detention Oversight
Compliance Inspection
2024-001-245**

**Enforcement and Removal Operations
ERO New Orleans Field Office**

**River Correctional Center
Ferriday, Louisiana**

November 14-16, 2023

COMPLIANCE INSPECTION
of the
RIVER CORRECTIONAL CENTER
Ferriday, Louisiana

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COMPLIANCE INSPECTION TEAM MEMBERS

[REDACTED]	Team Lead	ODO
[REDACTED]	Senior Inspections and Compliance Specialist	ODO
[REDACTED]	Senior Inspections and Compliance Specialist	ODO
[REDACTED]	Senior Inspections and Compliance Specialist	ODO
[REDACTED]	Inspections and Compliance Specialist	ODO
[REDACTED]	Contractor	Creative Corrections
[REDACTED]	Contractor	Creative Corrections
[REDACTED]	Contractor	Creative Corrections
[REDACTED]	Contractor	Creative Corrections
[REDACTED]	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 River Correctional Center (RCC) in Ferriday, Louisiana, from November 14 to 16, 2023.¹ Due to Varicella Virus exposure, ODO converted this inspection to a hybrid inspection and completed the final day of the inspection remotely. The facility opened in 2001 and is owned and operated by LaSalle Corrections. The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at RCC in 2019 under the oversight of ERO’s Field Office Director in New Orleans (ERO New Orleans). The facility operates under the Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS) 2011 (Revised 2016).²

[REDACTED] A facility administrator (FA) handles daily operations and manages [REDACTED] support personnel. LaSalle Corrections provides food services and medical care, and Correct Commissary provides commissary services at the facility. In June 2022, RCC was accredited by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care. In December 2021, RCC 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 ³	[REDACTED]
Average ICE Population ⁴	[REDACTED]
Adult Male Population (as of November 14, 2023)	[REDACTED]
Adult Female Population (as of November 14, 2023)	[REDACTED]

During its last full inspection, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, ODO found 9 deficiencies in the following areas: Funds and Personal Property (1); Significant Self-harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention (2); Terminal Illness, Advance Directives and Death (1); Transportation by Land (4), and Use of Force and Restraints (1).

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

² Due to Varicella Virus exposure, ODO converted this inspection to a hybrid inspection and completed the final day of the inspection remotely.

³ Data Source: ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List as of November 6, 2023.

⁴ *Ibid.*

COMPLIANCE INSPECTION PROCESS

ODO conducts oversight inspections of ICE detention facilities with an average daily population of 10 or more, and where detainees are housed for over 72 hours, to assess compliance with ICE national detention standards. While these inspections focus on facility compliance with detention standards that directly affect detainee life, health, safety, and/or well-being, in FY 2024 ODO added additional standards to the scope of each full inspection to ensure ODO inspects every standard at each facility at least once every other year.⁵

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 their decision-making to better allocate resources across the agency’s entire detention inventory.

⁵ ODO reviews the facility’s compliance with selected standards in their entirety.

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

PBNDs 2011 (Revised 2016) Standards Inspected ^{6,7}	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
Facility Security and Control	0
Funds and Personal Property	0
Population Counts	0
Post Orders	1
Searches of Detainees	0
Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention	0
Special Management Units	0
Staff Detainee Communication	1
Use of Force and Restraints	0
Sub-Total	2
Part 4 - Care	
Food Service	0
Hunger Strikes	0
Medical Care	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
Religious Practices	0
Telephone Access	0
Voluntary Work Program	0
Sub-Total	0

⁶ For greater detail on ODO's findings, see the *Compliance Inspection Findings* section of this report.

⁷ Beginning in FY 2024, ODO instituted a process of rotating all standards every other year. As a result, some standards may not be present in all inspections.

Part 6 - Justice	
Grievance System	1
Law Libraries and Legal Materials	0
Sub-Total	1
Part 7 - Administration and Management	
Detention Files	0
Detainee Transfers	0
Sub-Total	0
Total Deficiencies	3

DETAINEE RELATIONS

ODO interviewed 38 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.

COMPLIANCE INSPECTION FINDINGS

SECURITY

POST ORDERS (PO)

ODO reviewed the facility POs for housing units E, F, G, and H, and found they did not specifically state the duty hours for each post (**Deficiency PO-10⁸**).

STAFF-DETAINEE COMMUNICATION (SDC)

ODO reviewed the facility request logbooks and found facility staff did not record the following information: date of receipt; detainee's nationality; name of the staff member who logged the request; nor the date facility staff returned the request, with staff response, to the detainee (**Deficiency SDC-20⁹**).

JUSTICE

GRIEVANCE SYSTEM (GS)

ODO reviewed the facility detainee handbook and found it did not list the correct DHS Office of

⁸ "The chief security officer shall supervise the preparation of all post orders, which shall: ...

2. Specifically state the duty hours for each post."

See ICE PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016), Standard, Post Orders, Section (V)(C)(2).

⁹ "At a minimum, the log shall record:

a. Date of receipt;

d. Detainee's nationality;

e. Name of the staff member who logged the request;

f. Date that the request, with staff response and action, was returned to the detainee."

See ICE PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016), Standard, Staff-Detainee Communication, Section (V)(B)(2)(a,d-f).

the Inspector General (OIG) Hotline information and address. Specifically, the facility handbook listed the telephone number and mailing address for ERO New Orleans in lieu of DHS OIG hotline and mailing address (**Deficiency GS-18¹⁰**).

CONCLUSION

During this inspection, ODO assessed the facility’s compliance with 28 standards under PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016) and found the facility in compliance with 25 of those standards. ODO found three deficiencies in the remaining three standards. Since RCC’s last full inspection in November 2022, the facility has shown trended upward. RCC went from five deficient standards and nine deficiencies to three deficient standards and three deficiencies during this most recent inspection. The facility’s improved performance was likely a result of completing a uniform corrective action plan for ODO’s last full inspection in November 2022. ODO recommends ERO New Orleans continue to work with the facility to resolve any deficiencies that remain outstanding in accordance with contractual obligations.

Compliance Inspection Results Compared	FY 2023 (PBNDS 2011) (Revised 2016)	FY 2024 (PBNDS 2011) (Revised 2016)
Standards Reviewed	23	28
Deficient Standards	5	3
Overall Number of Deficiencies	9	3
Priority Component Deficiencies	0	0
Priority Component Deficiencies	1	0
Areas Of Concern	1	0
Corrective Actions	3	0
Facility Rating	Superior	Superior

¹⁰ “The facility shall provide each detainee, upon admittance, a copy of the detainee handbook and local supplement (see also standard “6.1 Detainee Handbook”), in which the grievance section provides notice of the following: ...

8. The opportunity at any point to file a complaint directly to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) OIG about staff misconduct, physical or sexual abuse or civil rights violations; complaints may be filed by calling the DHS OIG Hotline at 800-323-8603 or by writing to: Department of Homeland Security Attn: Office of the Inspector General Washington, DC 20528.”

See ICE PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016), Standard, Grievance System, Section (V)(B)(8).