



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

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**Office of Detention Oversight**  
**Unannounced Follow-Up Compliance**  
**Inspection**  
**2024-005-376**

**Enforcement and Removal Operations**  
**ERO Harlingen Field Office**

**Rio Grande Detention Center**  
**Laredo, Texas**

**June 4-6, 2024**

**UNANNOUNCED FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION**  
**of the**  
**RIO GRANDE DETENTION CENTER**  
Laredo, Texas

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# UNANNOUNCED FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION TEAM MEMBERS

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

## FACILITY OVERVIEW

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) Office of Detention Oversight (ODO) conducted an unannounced follow-up compliance inspection of the Rio Grande Detention Center (RGDC) in Laredo, Texas, from June 4 to 6, 2024.<sup>1</sup> This inspection focused on the standards found deficient during ODO’s last inspection of RGDC from December 19 to 21, 2023. The facility opened in 2008 and is owned and operated by The Geo Group, Inc (GEO). The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at RGDC in 2014 under the oversight of ERO’s Field Office Director in Harlingen (ERO Harlingen). ICE is an authorized user of this facility under a United States Marshals Service intergovernmental agreement contract, which does not specify an ICE National Detention Standard (NDS), and ODO inspected to the NDS listed on the ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List as of June 3, 2024. RGDC was inspected against the NDS 2019, and ODO’s assigned rating is for ERO’s informational purposes only.

██████████. A warden handles daily facility operations and manages ██████████ support personnel. GEO provides food services and medical care, and Keefe Commissary provides commissary services at the facility. The facility was accredited by the American Correctional Association in October 2022 and National Commission on Correctional Health Care in November 2022.

Capacity and Population Statistics	Quantity
ICE Bed Capacity <sup>2</sup>	██████████
Average ICE Population <sup>3</sup>	██████████
Adult Male Population (as of June 4, 2024)	██████████
Adult Female Population (as of June 4, 2024)	██████████

During its last rated inspection, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, ODO found 2 deficiencies in the following areas: Significant Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention (1) and Voluntary Work Program (1).

<sup>1</sup> This facility holds male detainees with low and medium-low security classification levels for periods greater than 72 hours.

<sup>2</sup> Data Source: ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List as of June 3, 2024.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

## UNANNOUNCED FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION PROCESS

ODO conducts oversight inspections of ICE detention facilities with an average daily population (ADP) 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.<sup>4</sup>

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.

In FY 2022, ODO began conducting special reviews of under 72-hour ICE detention facilities with an ADP of 1 or more detainees and over 72-hour ICE detention facilities with an ADP of 1 to 9 detainees. Additionally, ODO began conducting unannounced inspections of ICE detention facilities, regardless of ADP of detainees, as well as reviews of ICE special/emerging detention facilities/programs. As such, these facility inspections will result in an ODO Inspection Compliance Rating; however, for facilities that are not contractually obligated to an ICE NDS, those ratings will be for ERO’s informational purposes. ODO will conduct a complete review of several core standards, in accordance with the facility’s contractually required ICE NDS or in accordance with the ICE NDS listed in the current ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List for facilities that are not contractually obligated to an ICE NDS, which may include but are not limited to Medical Care/Health Care, Medical Care (Women)/Health Care (Females), Significant Self-harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention, Hunger Strikes, Food Service, Environmental Health and Safety, Special Management Units (SMU) or Hold Rooms (if the facility does not have an SMU), Use of Force and Restraints/Use of Physical Control Measures, and Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention.

Upon completion of each special review or unannounced 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 uniform corrective action plans (UCAPs); 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.

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<sup>4</sup> ODO reviews the facility’s compliance with selected standards in their entirety.

## FINDINGS BY NATIONAL DETENTION STANDARDS 2019 MAJOR CATEGORIES

NDS 2019 Standards Inspected <sup>5,6,7</sup>	Deficiencies
<b>Part 1 - Safety</b>	
Environmental Health and Safety	0
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Part 2 - Security</b>	
Admission and Release	0
Custody Classification System	0
Facility Security and Control	0
Funds and Personal Property	0
Use of Force and Restraints	0
Special Management Units	0
Staff-Detainee Communication	0
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Part 4 - Care</b>	
Food Service	0
Hunger Strikes	0
Medical Care	0
Significant Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention	0
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Part 5 - Activities</b>	
Recreation	0
Telephone Access	0
Voluntary Work Program	0
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Part 6 - Justice</b>	
Grievance System	0
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Deficiencies</b>	<b>0</b>

<sup>5</sup> For greater detail on ODO's findings, see the *Unannounced Follow-Up Compliance Inspection Findings* section of this report.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> During an unannounced inspection, ODO will review a facility's compliance with at least 10 individual standards; however, unannounced full inspections will include a review of the same standards as announced full inspections.

## DETAINEE RELATIONS

ODO interviewed 20 detainees, who each voluntarily agreed to participate. Four detainees declined ODO's request for an interview. None of the detainees made allegations of discrimination, mistreatment, or abuse. Most detainees reported satisfaction with facility services except for the concern listed below.

*Medical Care:* One detainee stated he wanted to use sensitivity toothpaste instead of prescribed medication to relieve tooth pain.

- Action Taken: ODO reviewed the detainee's medical file, interviewed the director of nursing, and found a facility doctor examined the detainee for general tooth pain in the lower left molar on June 1, 2024. The doctor prescribed Peridex (15mL) anti-inflammatory rinse and Ibuprofen (800 mg), twice daily, as needed for pain and inflammation. The detainee requested to use Sensodyne sensitivity toothpaste to alleviate tooth pain, but the dentist said he would determine the appropriate treatment for the detainee's condition. The detainee acknowledged his understanding. On June 4, 2024, the dentist completed a dental screening of tooth #18 and #19 and scheduled an X-ray appointment for June 11, 2024. ODO followed up with the facility and confirmed on June 12, 2024, the dentist found no cavity and diagnosed for a mild case of chronic gingivitis. The dentist recommended continued use of the anti-inflammatory medication as needed, educated the detainee on good oral hygiene procedures, and advised the detainee to contact medical if symptoms persisted.

## UNANNOUNCED FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION FINDINGS

ODO found no deficiencies during the inspection.

## CONCLUSION

During this unannounced follow-up compliance inspection, ODO assessed the facility's compliance with 16 standards under NDS 2019 and found the facility in compliance with all 16 standards. Since RGDC's last full inspection in December 2023, the facility's performance has trended upward. RGDC went from two deficient standards and two deficiencies to no deficient standards and no deficiencies during this most recent follow-up inspection. ODO received a completed UCAP for the facility's last ODO inspection in December 2023, which resolved the two previous deficiencies. ODO recommends ERO Harlingen continue to work with the facility to maintain a high-level of compliance with NDS 2019.

<b>Compliance Inspection Results Compared</b>	<b>FY 2024 Full Inspection (NDS 2019)</b>	<b>FY 2024 Follow-Up Inspection (NDS 2019)</b>
Standards Reviewed	24	16
Deficient Standards	2	0
Overall Number of Deficiencies	2	0
Priority Component Deficiencies	1	0
Repeat Deficiencies	1	0
Areas Of Concern	0	0
Corrective Actions	0	0
Facility Rating	Good	N/A