

 <b>Department of Corrections and Community Supervision</b>  <b>DIRECTIVE</b>	TITLE <b>Facility Security Level Criteria</b>		NO. 0040
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REFERENCES (Include but are not limited to)	APPROVING AUTHORITY 		

- I. PURPOSE:** To set forth the criteria to be considered in establishing the security classification of a correctional facility.
- II. INTRODUCTION:** A correctional facility is designated as maximum, medium, or minimum security based upon the mix of physical plant and characteristics of the facility which make it capable of safely and securely housing incarcerated individuals of a specific risk level. Incarcerated individuals are assessed on the degree of risk which they present. Based on this assessment they are designated as Maximum A, Maximum B, Medium A, Medium B, etc. (These designations are based on the “Security Classification Guidelines.”) The security classification of a correctional facility, therefore, is based on the facility’s capacity to house incarcerated individuals of a comparable or lower security level.
- III. GENERAL CRITERIA:** In determining the security classification of a specific correctional facility, several criteria are normally taken into consideration: Perimeter, Special Housing Unit (SHU)/Residential Rehabilitation Unit (RRU), Operational Configuration, Internal Control, and Housing.
- A. Perimeter: This is defined as the type of enclosure surrounding the incarcerated individuals within a correctional facility.
1. Security level is evaluated in terms of the impenetrability of the perimeter ranging from virtually impenetrable at maximum security facilities (a high masonry wall with manned, armed posts or multiple fences with a sophisticated electronic detection system and cameras) to a more penetrable medium security fence to no perimeter fence at minimum security facilities.
  2. Medium security facilities generally will have a secure perimeter that will be less impervious to assault than that of a maximum security facility and particularly less impervious to assault by large numbers of incarcerated individuals than might be needed in maximum security facilities to contain potentially large incarcerated individual disturbances.
- B. Internal Control: This is defined as the degree and means of controlling incarcerated individual movement within a facility.
1. The essential criteria for a maximum security designation is that the physical structure provide capacity to isolate all housing, service, and program areas by control gates. Additionally, incarcerated individual congregation areas such as the mess hall, yard, and gymnasium may have chemical agent control capabilities or secure access routes for the introduction of chemical agents in the event of a group disturbance.

The higher the security level of a facility the greater the need to manage internal movement of incarcerated individuals through controlled gates which will divide corridors, housing units, and congregate areas, if necessary, to isolate disturbances. In a maximum security facility, there would be controlled movement within the facility.

2. In a medium security facility, this physical environment control over incarcerated individual movement is less apparent and is achieved more by staff supervision than by corridor control. Greater reliance on a managed pass or call out system is found in a medium security facility.

### C. Housing

1. The range from maximum to minimum security in the area of housing units is essentially the range from single/double cell living units with self-contained toilet facilities to open barracks type housing. The continuum between the two run the gamut from dormitory style to small group to multiple incarcerated individual living units.
  - a. The housing of maximum security incarcerated individuals requires that the facility have cells with individually controlled locking devices secured from incarcerated individual access. Preferably, these locking devices should be remotely controlled. Each cell in a maximum security facility will have sanitary facilities enabling the facility to be totally locked down at night and incarcerated individuals' needs to be met within the confines of those cells. The preferred configuration for maximum security incarcerated individuals presenting the greatest level of security risk is inside cell construction. Several facilities, however, do meet the design requirements for the housing of less escape-prone maximum security incarcerated individuals within dormitories and/or outside cells.
  - b. Medium security incarcerated individuals may be housed in either single occupancy or multiple occupancy rooms or open dormitories. Even within the group of incarcerated individuals designated as medium security, there are those who are relatively more predatory than others within the medium security group for whom individual cell occupancy is required.
  - c. Minimum security facilities do not require individual occupancy cells although they may be available as a historical artifact. Security in housing units is provided in all cases when incarcerated individuals are in residence.
2. The difference among the security levels is best represented by the relative dependence upon the hardware of the facility versus the presence of a Correction Officer in providing that security.
  - a. In maximum security facilities, there is heavy reliance upon the security of the cells combined with the presence of a Correction Officer.
  - b. In medium security facilities, there would be less need for heavy reliance on the hardware provided by a cell structure but the security is provided by the Correction Officer supervising the housing unit at all times when incarcerated individuals are present.

- c. In minimum security facilities, there would be no reliance on the security provided by the housing unit, instead the security would be provided by the Correction Officer supervising the housing unit.
- D. Special Housing Units (SHU)/Residential Rehabilitation Units (RRU): A SHU is required in any facility wherein incarcerated individuals who threaten safety and security cannot be quickly transported to a more secure facility.
1. In order for a facility to be designated as maximum security it must have a secure SHU capable of housing the most disruptive or escape prone incarcerated individual. This SHU must offer a high degree of control over the movements of each incarcerated individual as well as the ability to contain and isolate them from the rest of the facility.
  2. Medium security facilities generally do have SHUs. An incarcerated individual who threatens safety and security at a medium security facility without an operational SHU will be appropriately secured and subsequently transported to a SHU at another facility.  
  
At certain medium security facilities, there are specially-built double occupancy units operating as disciplinary housing units or RRU's where incarcerated individuals are housed. All incarcerated individuals are fed in their cells and each cell has a shower, thus eliminating the need for staff to escort incarcerated individuals to a mess hall or shower area. In addition, each cell can be exited through a rear door to an enclosed exercise area for outdoor exercise, further minimizing contact between incarcerated individuals and staff. The cell showers and rear doors are controlled by staff. Some RRU's have larger congregate recreation areas where incarcerated individuals may be escorted to.
  3. A minimum security facility has no need for a SHU. Incarcerated individuals whose behavior rises to the level of requiring confinement to a SHU would be transferred from a minimum security facility as the degree of risk they would be deemed to present would no longer match the capability of the facility as a whole.
- E. Operational Configuration: Within the facility, security considerations focus upon the ability to monitor and control incarcerated individual movement and interaction, whether or not that ability is exercised in all aspects. These operational activities can be characterized as:
1. Observation
  2. Intervention
  3. Containment
  4. Response
  5. Operational/Administrative Adjustment

The difference between maximum, medium, and minimum security facilities in these areas is a difference of degree.

In maximum security facilities, there should be greater capacity to limit the total congregate size of groups resulting from activities or incarcerated individual movement. There should also be the ability to minimize the intersection of group movement in terms of circulation within the facility.

Maximum security facilities should enhance the ability to perform the activities enumerated above through a greater reliance on the physical environment than on staff.

In all cases there is a balance between the security provided by the physical environment and the staffing. The effects of the physical design of the facility on actual day to day activities of normal operation of the facility are considerations.

The classification of a facility as a maximum, medium, or minimum security is determined to a great extent by the degree to which each of the above criteria are found and their degree of interaction.