

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

GENERAL ORDER 10.23

APRIL 2025

WEAPONS POLICY FOR NONUNIFORMED EMPLOYEES

1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this General Order (GO) is to establish standardized policy regarding the carrying or possession of weapons by nonuniformed employees of this Department while on duty and conducting state business. This policy includes those nonuniformed employees who possess a Carry Concealed Weapon (CCW) license.

2. DEFINITION.

a. Nonuniformed Employees. Refers to all departmental employees who are not peace officers as defined by Section 830.2(a) of the California Penal Code (PC).

b. Weapon. Refers to any weapon described in Section 171b PC. Those weapons are described in paragraph 3. of this GO.

c. CCW License. A person who has received a license to carry a firearm, capable of being concealed on their person, pursuant to Title 4, Chapter 4, commencing with Section 26150 PC.

3. POLICY.

a. Carry of Weapons. Nonuniformed employees of this Department, while on duty and conducting state business, shall comply with Section 171b PC, which prohibits any person from bringing or possessing specified weapons in state owned or leased buildings. These prohibited weapons are defined as:

(1) Any firearm.

(2) Deadly weapon described in Section 17235 PC or in any provision listed in Section 16590 PC.

(3) Any knife with a blade length in excess of four inches, the blade of which is fixed or is capable of being fixed in an unguarded position by the use of one or two hands.

- (4) Any unauthorized tear gas weapon, as defined in Section 22810 PC.
- (5) Any taser or stun gun, as defined in Section 244.5 PC.
- (6) Any instrument that expels a metallic projectile, such as a BB or pellet, through the force of air pressure, CO2 pressure, spring action, or any spot marker gun or paint gun.

Although Section 171b PC provides exemptions for peace officers and persons with a valid CCW license, departmental policy prohibits all nonuniformed employees from carrying any weapon described above while on duty and conducting state business, whether or not they possess a CCW license.

b. Exemptions. During the performance of their duties, when handling weapons the Department owns or is responsible for, the following employees may use, handle, carry, or maintain those weapons as required by the duties assigned with their job classification:

- (1) Automotive Technician I
- (2) Automotive Technician II
- (3) Automotive Technician III
- (4) Cadets
- (5) Gunsmith
- (6) Lead Gunsmith
- (7) Lead Auto Mechanic
- (8) Property Controller I
- (9) Property Controller II
- (10) Automotive Equipment Standards Engineer
- (11) Associate Automotive Equipment Standards Engineer
- (12) Senior Automotive Equipment Standards Engineer
- (13) Electronics Technician
- (14) Electronics Technician Supervisor

(15) Junior Inspector of Automotive Equipment

(16) Inspector of Automotive Equipment

(17) Senior Inspector of Automotive Equipment

(18) Property Inspector, Specialist (Audits and Inspections Section)

NOTE: If a job classification is not listed, a CHP 51, Memorandum, shall be written detailing the job classification, job description, and justification for allowing a nonuniformed employee to handle departmental weapons. The memorandum shall be forwarded through the chain of command for approval by the appropriate Assistant Commissioner. The approved memorandum shall be placed into the employee's personnel file.

c. Policy Review. During nonuniformed employee annual appraisals or evaluations, nonuniformed employees shall review this GO and be familiar with the contents of Highway Patrol Manual 70.8, Firearms Manual, Chapter 2, Firearms Safety, regarding firearms safety and the handling of firearms. Once reviewed, a copy of this GO shall be initialed by the employee and placed in the employee's personnel file.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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