

**CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**

**GENERAL ORDER 100.17**

**REVISED MARCH 2025**

**HELMETS**

1. POLICY.

a. It is the policy of the CHP to provide all uniformed employees with general duty helmets which will be worn only while performing activities where use of the helmet is reasonable.

b. In addition to general duty helmets, uniformed employees assigned to motorcycle or flight duty shall be issued the appropriate helmet.

2. PROCEDURES.

a. Uniformed employees assigned to motorcycle duty shall wear a motorcycle helmet equipped with a headset during actual operation of a motorcycle.

b. Uniformed employees shall wear the general duty helmet while performing nonroutine activities where use of the helmet is reasonable. Motorcycle riders, pilots, or observers responding to these nonroutine activities may continue to wear their motorcycle or flight helmets until such time as their general duty helmets become available.

c. The wearing of helmets by uniformed employees assigned to flight duty is governed by Highway Patrol Manual (HPM) 100.7, Air Operations Manual, Chapter 5, Aviation Safety.

d. The decision when general duty helmets are to be worn shall be based on sound professional judgment.

3. IDENTIFICATION.

a. During incidents where the general duty helmet is being utilized and the badge, nameplate, or the name on the utility uniform are covered, uniformed employees' ID numbers shall be clearly displayed on the front of their helmets.

- (1) Identification numbers shall be displayed using one of the following methods:
- (a) Affixed by hook-and-pile style patch. The patch shall be black in color with a black border, with the ID number (e.g., 18461) embroidered in nonmetallic gold. The patch shall measure approximately 1 inch high and 4 inches wide, with the number measuring approximately 3/4 inch high.



1 Only departmentally issued or approved patches may be affixed. All other patches shall not be placed or affixed to any departmental helmet.

(b) Marked with a yellow grease pencil (obtainable through Supply Services); other marking devices may damage the helmet finish. Identification numbers should be at least 1 inch high.

(2) When the incident warranting the display of the ID number on the helmet has been resolved and the use of the general duty helmet is no longer needed, personnel shall remove the patch or the grease pencil marking from the front of their helmet.

b. Uniformed employees shall not affix their names, initials, or other means of identification to the exterior of their helmets, except as provided in paragraphs 3.a.(1)(a) and 3.a.(1)(b) above. Additionally, motorcycle and flight helmets shall not have names, initials, or ID numbers permanently affixed inside or on the exterior.

#### 4. RESPONSIBILITY.

a. All helmets and kits are assigned to individual uniformed employees and each uniformed employee will assume responsibility for their care and safekeeping.

b. Motorcycle and flight helmets are assigned to commands as appropriate. Commanders are responsible for issuance to uniformed employees assigned to motorcycle or flight duties.

c. Commanders are responsible for maintaining a current record of motorcycle and flight helmets assigned to their employees. Records shall include the CHP ID number, helmet size, and the name and ID number to whom it is issued.

d. Uniformed employees are responsible for advising their immediate commanders of necessary helmet maintenance, and commanders shall be guided by procedures established in HPM 11.2, Materials Management Manual, Chapter 10, Police Protective and Safety Equipment-Uniformed Employees.

e. Commanders are responsible for notifying Supply Services Section when motorcycle or flight helmets are transferred.

f. Supply Services Unit is responsible for notifying Fiscal Management Section, Inventory Control Unit, of all helmets requisitioned, replaced, or returned to stock, and when motorcycle or flight helmets are transferred between offices.

5. MOTORCYCLE AND FLIGHT HELMET CARE.

a. Helmets may be washed with a mild soap and protected with a good grade of nonabrasive wax.

b. Helmet decals should be avoided when waxing.

6. GENERAL DUTY HELMET CARE.

a. Helmets may be washed with a mild soap.

b. General duty helmets shall be stored in the container provided when not being worn.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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