

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MEMORANDUM #25-5

To: All Sheriffs and Jail Administrators
From: Brandon Wood, Executive Director
Date: September 15, 2025



RE: Changes to Minimum Jail Standards

The Texas Commission on Jail Standards voted to adopt amendments to Texas Administrative Code Chapter 263 Life Safety, at its August 7, 2025, meeting. These rules changes were suggested, and reviewed, at the TCJS Administrative Rules Advisory Committee, during its 4-year rule review, with the help of the State Fire Marshal's Office and other stakeholders. These rules can be found on TCJS' website [here](#). These rules changes are primarily non-substantive grammatical corrections and include clarifying changes to certain references, and will not affect your current operations.

TCJS also voted to adopt rule changes to Chapter 279.1, Sanitation Plan, that requires jails to develop a method to allow hand washing in holding cells and include the plan in their operational plan. This rule change was proposed by a petition from the public and was reviewed by the TCJS Administrative Rules Advisory Committee. See the text of the adopted rule [here](#).

The text of rule changes currently proposed by TCJS can be found [here](#).

Please review the link above for the text of adopted rules.

These rules go into effect September 22, 2025. Operational plans, with required changes, are due to TCJS for review by October 31, 2025. Please contact Richard Morgan at Richard.morgan@tcjs.state.tx.us if you have any questions.