

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS


EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Ricky Armstrong



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## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MEMORANDUM

#26-06

To: All Sheriffs and Jail Administrators  
From: Ricky Armstrong, Executive Director   
Date: June 1, 2026  
RE: Changes to Minimum Jail Standards

The Texas Commission on Jail Standards voted to adopt several amendments to administrative code at its May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026, meeting. Please see below for a list of changes made.

The following standards were amended to replace “closed circuit television” with “video monitoring” to better reflect the methods used in jails:

- 259.168 Television Monitoring
- 259.264 Television Monitoring
- 259.358 Television Monitoring
- 259.454 Television Monitoring
- 259.770 Television Monitoring
- 275.1 Regular Observation by Jailers
- 275.7 Supervision Outside the Security Perimeter – Court Holding Cells

Amendments to chapter 259 New Construction have been adopted in the following standards:

- 259.117 Inmate Entrance: Added the requirement that new construction in inmate entrances should include an adjacent space to provide for immediate medical and mental health screening.
- 259.123 Kitchen: Corrected “covered” to “coved”. Removed “disagreeable” from (5).
- 259.141 Dimensions: Changed five feet six inches to seven feet to match the International Building Code.
- 259.151 Detention Doors: Removed language regarding doors outside the security perimeter. Increased width of cell doors from 28 inches to 32 inches.
- 259.737 Dormitories: Updated to match direct supervision language in other parts of standards.

Amendments to chapter 269 Records and Procedures have been adopted in the following standard(s):

- 269.3 Weapons/Ammunition Procedure: Each sheriff/operator shall develop, submit, and implement a Weapon and Ammunition Procedure approved by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards not later than July 1, 2026. The weapon ammunition procedure shall include, at a minimum, the following components: Weapon Classification. A list of approved weapons permitted inside the jail (e.g., TASERs, OC spray, batons) and how they will be stored when within the secured perimeter.

The full minimum jail standards can be found here and the rule changes will go into effect on July 15, 2026. A current list of proposed changes to rules can be found in the Texas Register.

Contact Richard Morgan at [Richard.morgan@tcjs.state.tx.us](mailto:Richard.morgan@tcjs.state.tx.us) with any questions or concerns.

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