



**Division of Criminal Justice
Police Training Commission**

**Outdoor Firearms
Range
Facility Standards**

Effective Date: July 1, 1988



New Jersey Department of Law & Public Safety
Division of Criminal Justice

OUTDOOR RANGE FACILITY STANDARDS

* Required

● Recommended

1.0* **Location/Security.** The range should be in a relatively safe and isolated area. The outer perimeters of the range shall be secured by a natural barrier or adequate fencing when there is a risk of trespassing by unauthorized persons.

2.0* **Berms.** The range should contain impact and safety berms.

2.1* **Impact Berm.** The impact berm for ranges with a 25-yard capacity limit should be at least 12 feet high, and for those with a 50-yard capacity limit, at least 20 feet high. These impact berms should be free from rocks, stones or objects that may tend to increase the possibility of ricochets.

2.2* **Side Berms.** Both sides of the range should contain side berms for safety purposes. They should be at least 8 feet high and extend from the impact berm to the maximum shooting distance. Their primary purpose should serve to stop any misdirected rounds that may tend to travel slightly to one side or the other either by accident or ricochet. These berms should not be used as impact berms.

3.0* **Range surface.** The surface of the entire range should be relatively clear of any objects, stones or excessive growth that may tend to enhance the possibility of ricochets, or create bad footing conditions. The entire range shooting area should be relatively flat and level.

4.0* **Target area.** A line of target brackets or holders should be placed on the target area.

4.1* **Materials** used in the construction of brackets or holders should be designed so as not to create any ricochet hazard.

4.2* **Target brackets or holders** should be conspicuously numbered in proper sequence. The materials from which the numbers plates are made should not create any ricochet hazard.

4.3* **Target line** should be placed no more than 20 feet in front of the impact berm.

- 4.4* **Targets.** There should be a space between each target bracket or holder approximately equal to the width of one target. The top of the targets, when attached to the brackets or holder, should be approximately 6 feet off the ground and in a relatively straight and level line.
- 5.0* **Firing lines** should be clearly marked on the ground surface across the entire width of each firing range.
- 5.1* **Numbered Distance Markers** should be placed on both sides of each firing line to indicate the distance from the firing line to the target, i.e., 7-yards, 25-yards, etc..
- 6.0* **Firing Lanes.** Each shooting lane should be conspicuously numbered to assure range personnel and shooters that the shooters are in their proper shooting lane.
- 6.1* **Numbered markers** should be conspicuously placed in each shooting lane and coincide with the target bracket, 25-yard line and 50-yard line numbers.
- 7.0* **Sound System.** There should be an audible sound system to amplify voice commands.
- 7.1* **Voice projection.** This sound system should enable the range officer to project loud and clear voice commands to all shooters during actual shooting exercises.
- 8.0* **Communications System.** An adequate communications system should be available at the range site.
- 8.1* **Convenient location.** This system should be conveniently located to the range officer in order to minimize the loss of time between the emergency and the call for assistance.
- 8.2* **Capability.** The system should be capable of contacting appropriate assistance in case of injuries or other unforeseen emergencies.
- 9.0* **Lighting.** Adequate lighting, when necessary, should be available at the range site.

10.0 ●
site.

Control Tower/Flag Pole. At control tower should be placed at the range

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10.1 **Placement.** A control tower should be placed at the center point of the range, approximately 15 to 20 yards behind the farthest firing line, and provide the range officer with a clear unobstructed view of all shooters and the range personnel.

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10.2 **Construction.** The floor decking should be at least 6 feet higher than the ground

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10.3 **Flag Pole.** A flag pole, for displaying a red flag or banner whenever the range is in use, should be installed close to or attached directly to the control tower. The top of this pole should be at least 20 feet higher than ground level. The flag or banner should be large enough to be conspicuously viewed from any location in the range area.

11.0

Other.

11.1* **Toilet facilities.** Toilet facilities should be made available. Portable toilets are acceptable.

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11.2 **Rest Area.** A rest or break area should be available in a location that is safe from any firing line.

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11.3 **Parking.** When necessary, adequate parking facilities should be made available.

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11.4 **Storage Shed/Field Office.** The range should contain some form of storage shed or field office. This structure should be relatively secure for the storage of target materials.

11.5* **Emergency Vehicles' Access.** Suitable access to the range site should be provided for emergency vehicles. Emergency personnel should be familiar with the access road(s) and location of the range site. Additionally, emergency personnel should be notified when the range is in use.