

## Selected excerpts from the Standing Orders

### Requirements of the Standing Orders include:

- *“In every prison provision must be made for sleeping accommodation consisting of single or communal cells which conform to international standards in respect of lighting, air supply and floor space.”*<sup>1</sup>
- *Floor space The minimum permissible cell area per prisoner is as follows:*
  - *Ordinary communal cells 3,344 m<sup>2</sup>*
  - *Ordinary single cells 5,5 m<sup>2</sup>*
  - *Hospital communal cells 4,645 m<sup>2</sup>*
  - *Hospital single cells 9,0 m<sup>2</sup>*
  
  - *This floor space per prisoner does not include areas taken up by ablution facilities walls and pillars and personal lockers (not built in) in the cell*<sup>2</sup>
- *Air space The minimum permissible air space per prisoner in habitable rooms is*
  - *Persons under the age of 10 years 4,25 m<sup>3</sup>*
  - *Persons 10 years and older 8,5 m<sup>3</sup>*<sup>3</sup>
- *“In cases of continuous wetness/dampness in cells, cell doors and windows must be left open during the day and prisoners should not be housed in them during the day. Should it be necessary, however, to house prisoners in them during the day due to for instance security reasons, only the grill door should be locked.”*<sup>4</sup>
- *“The Head of the Prison/Division Head: Operational Services must conduct inspections in the prison on a weekly basis to ensure that every cell conforms to the minimum*

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<sup>1</sup> Standing Correctional Orders, Order 2, Chapter 2, Clause 1.1 (a).

<sup>2</sup> Standing Correctional Orders, Order 2, Chapter 2, Clause 2.1.

<sup>3</sup> Standing Correctional Orders, Order 2, Chapter 2, Clause 2.2.

<sup>4</sup> Standing Correctional Orders, Order 2, Chapter 2, Clause 2.5.3.

*requirements for the incarceration of prisoners. All Section Heads must conduct these inspections on a daily basis.”<sup>5</sup>*

- *“Where prisoners with a suspected or confirmed diagnosis of, for example, tuberculosis and/or other contagious diseases, epilepsy, respiratory problems . . . are identified in the prison, the Head of the Prison in consultation with the Division Head: Nursing Services (and, if necessary the medical doctor) must arrange for the detention of these prisoners in the prison/prison hospital in a single or communal cell. If these prisoners, of necessity, have to be accommodated in a single cell, arrangements must be made for continued observation and supervision, including measures to allow for unhindered access to these prisoners during a crisis situation, also after hours.”<sup>6</sup>*
- *“Similarly prisoners suspected or diagnosed after admittance, to be suffering from a communicable or contagious disease must, on recommendation of the registered nurse or medical officer/practitioner, be detained separately (also with regard to participation in any communal activity, e.g. meal times, exercise, showering, visits, programme participation, etc.). Thus implying the absolute minimum/restricted movement of the prisoner outside his/her cell in an attempt to prevent/contain the spread of the disease to the perceived healthy prison population at all times, until such time that the registered nurse or medical officer/practitioner is able to certify that the prisoner does not pose a risk for the spread of the disease anymore.”<sup>7</sup>*
- *“Heads of Prisons/Area Managers, in conjunction with the Provincial Commissioners, are responsible for the management of overcrowding of prisons. It must be ensured that certain prisons/sections of prisons are not highly overpopulated while other prisons/sections of prisons are under-utilised and the even distribution of prisoners must be ensured.”<sup>8</sup>*

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<sup>5</sup> Standing Correctional Orders, Order 2, Chapter 2, Clause 5.1.

<sup>6</sup> Standing Correctional Orders, Order 2, Chapter 2, Clause 7.1.15.

<sup>7</sup> Standing Correctional Orders, Order 2, Chapter 2, Clause 7.1.16.

<sup>8</sup> Standing Correctional Orders, Order 2, Chapter 2, Clause 8.1.

- *“Specific correctional officials (not only nursing staff) in different sections should be appointed in writing ... to become environmental [health] management supervisors.”<sup>9</sup>*
- *“Each province must provide for access to a 24-hour health care service providing for a structured system of referral ...”<sup>10</sup>*
- *“All admissions must be screened by a registered nurse on admission using a screening form.”<sup>11</sup>*
- *“Following screening at the reception, all admissions must be taken to the prison health facility by the unit manager or reception manager within 24 hours, for a medical examination by the registered nurse or medical officer/practitioner.”<sup>12</sup>*
- *“Health care workers must adopt a multi-disciplinary (discipline staff, social workers, psychologists) approach to provide health education to all prisoners in prisons for the purpose of preventing diseases, and promoting good health and well-being practices.”<sup>13</sup>*
- Health education must include “weekly health education sessions.”<sup>14</sup> Topics for these sessions “must include”: “Reducing risks of communicable diseases e.g. tuberculosis; Sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS; Infection control practices ....”<sup>15</sup>
- “There must be involvement of other external stakeholders e.g. the Department of Health, community based organisations and non-Governmental organisations [in “health promotion and disease prevention].”<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Standing Correctional Orders, Order 3, Chapter 2, Clause 5.0.

<sup>10</sup> Standing Correctional Orders, Order 3, Chapter 3, Clause 1.4.

<sup>11</sup> Standing Correctional Orders, Order 3, Chapter 3, Clause 4.4(a).

<sup>12</sup> Standing Correctional Orders, Order 3, Chapter 3, Clause 6.1.

<sup>13</sup> Standing Correctional Orders, Order 3, Chapter 3, Clause 8.1.

<sup>14</sup> Standing Correctional Orders, Order 3, Chapter 3, Clause 8.2.

<sup>15</sup> Standing Correctional Orders, Order 3, Chapter 3, Clause 8.4.

<sup>16</sup> Standing Correctional Orders, Order 3, Chapter 3, Clause 8.3.

- *“All prisoners with communicable conditions must be isolated in strict accordance with the medical officer’s/practitioner’s and registered nurse’s orders issued in each case.”<sup>17</sup>*
- *“Each prison must have written order on infection control which must be monitored and reviewed annually.”<sup>18</sup>*

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<sup>17</sup> Standing Correctional Orders, Order 3, Chapter 3, Clause 15.1.

<sup>18</sup> Standing Correctional Orders, Order 3, Chapter 3, Clause 15.3.