



Law Enforcement Accreditation

Law Enforcement Program: The Standards

There are selected standards in the Law Enforcement Accreditation Program and a full complement of standards in the Advanced Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. These standards are subject to ongoing review and revision. When modifications are recommended, they are presented to the Commission's Standards Review and Interpretation Committee (SRIC) for consideration. If appropriate, SRIC approves draft language and then presents the draft to the Commission for its approval to publicize the proposed change for review and comment from the public safety community. Comments are referred back to the SRIC for consideration. The SRIC then makes a recommendation to the Commission for final approval.

The standards address nine major law enforcement areas:

1. Role, responsibilities and relationships
2. Organization, management and administration
3. Personnel structure
4. Personnel process
5. Operations
6. Operation support
7. Traffic operations
8. Detainee and court-related activities
9. Auxiliary and technical services

The standards help law enforcement agencies:

- Strengthen crime prevention and control capabilities
- Formalize essential management procedures
- Establish fair and nondiscriminatory personnel practices
- Improve service-delivery
- Solidify interagency cooperation and coordination
- Boost citizen and staff confidence in the agency

Compliance

Agencies that seek accreditation are required to comply only with those standards that are specifically applicable to them. Applicability is based on two factors: an agency's size and



the functions it performs. Applicable standards are categorized as mandatory or other-than-mandatory. Agencies must comply with all applicable mandatory standards and at least 80% of applicable other-than-mandatory standards. If an agency cannot comply with a standard because of legislation, labor agreements, court orders or case law, waivers can be sought from the Commission.

“What” Not “How”

Seeking to establish the best professional practices, the standards prescribe “what” agencies should be doing, but not “how” they should be doing it. That decision is left up to the individual agency and its chief executive officer.