



Deployment and Use of Limb Restraint Equipment STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

REFERENCE SOP/227/10

PROTECTIVE MARKING Not Protectively Marked

PORTFOLIO OPERATIONS

OWNER ACC Operations

START DATE 10 December 2010

REVIEW DATE 10 December 2013

THIS POLICY REPLACES:

VERSION	DATE	REASON FOR AMENDMENT	AMENDED BY
V6.2	September 2010	N/A	Insp. Tim Scott
V6.3	November 2010	Review	Policy Team
V6.4	December 2010	Review	Policy Team



CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	3
2	KNOWLEDGE	3
3	PROCEDURES	4
3.1	Introduction.....	4
3.2	Prerequisites For The Use of Limb Restraints.....	4
3.2.1	The Use of Force must be Lawful and Proportionate	4
3.2.3	It Must be in Accordance with the Relevant Legislation	5
3.2.7	Officers must have received training within the Personal Safety Training Package ...	5
3.2.8	Consideration of the Persons Human Rights and Tactical Options	6
3.2.9	Consideration of Pre-existing Injury of Detained Persons	6
3.2.10	Avoidance of Positional Asphyxia.....	6
3.2.14	Scenarios Where Limb Restraints Can be Used and the Intended Effects.....	7
3.3	Transportation of Limb Restraints, Prisoners and Record Keeping.....	7
3.4	Public Perception, Training and Techniques on Removal of Prisoners	8
3.4.1	Public Perception	8
3.4.2	Training	8
3.4.3	Officer.....	8
4	MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE	8
5	APPENDICES	9

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR LIMB RESTRAINTS

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This procedure effects and is subject to the conditions of the [Use of Force Policy](#).
- 1.2 This procedure applies to England, Wales and Scotland.
- 1.3 This procedure applies to all police officers, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and police staff in operational roles.

2 KNOWLEDGE

2.1 Terms and Definitions

2.1.1 Limb Restraints

The term 'limb restraint' indicates a device that is designed and used to restrict the range of movements of the legs. Its application should prevent a person from kicking and/or punching and allow for safe transportation of the person in a vehicle to a place of safety. This equipment is often referred to as 'fast straps'.

2.1.2 The Conflict Management Model

The Conflict Management Model (CMM) is used by the police service as a general decision-making and operational planning tool. The CMM provides commanders, officers, planners and advisors with a structured framework for rationalising and recording the decision making process, and managing a reasonable and proportionate police response. (See Appendix 5.1 for the CMM cycle).

2.1.3 Positional Asphyxia

Positional asphyxia is defined as occurring where the position of the body interferes with respiration, resulting in asphyxia.

2.2 Responsibilities

2.2.1 Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) Operations

ACC Operations is accountable for the effective management and operation of the Limb Restraints SOP.

2.2.2 Head of Learning and Development

The Head of Learning and Development (L&D) is responsible for ensuring that adequate training is provided to all officers that will be given limb restraints.

3 PROCEDURES

3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 When police officers and PCSOs are required to restrain violent prisoners, it is often the case that whilst control can be achieved of the upper body, the threat caused by flailing legs and feet can be more difficult to address.

3.1.2 The number of officers/PCSOs required to properly restrain a violent person who has already been handcuffed can appear to members of the public to be excessive. There is a risk of injury to the person being detained from the amount of force required to be applied to their legs. In addition, there is an increased risk of injury to the officers/PCSOs attempting to gain control of the person through being kicked.

3.1.3 Approval has recently been given by the clothing committee for limb restraints to be made available for operational use within British Transport Police (BTP).

3.1.4 The procedures contained within this SOP are designed to provide police officers, PCSOs and other police staff with a generic approach to the use of limb restraints.

3.1.5 The use of limb restraints should be seen in the context of the CMM as a whole and their use viewed as one of the many tactical options that may be available in the resolution of an incident.

3.2 PREREQUISITES FOR THE USE OF LIMB RESTRAINTS

3.2.1 The Use Of Force Must Be Lawful And Proportionate

Any force used against any person must be proportionate, lawful and at the minimum level to achieve the officer's objectives, reflecting the need to balance the competing rights of individuals and society in general.

3.2.2 Individual officers/PCSOs must be prepared to account for their actions and show

that they acted reasonably within the law.

3.2.3 **Must Be In Accordance With The Relevant Legislation**

Common Law

If you have a reasonably held belief that you or another are in imminent danger then you may use such force as is reasonably necessary to avoid that danger.

3.2.4 **Section 117 Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984**

“Where the provisions of this Act:

- a) confers a power on a constable and
- b) does not provide that the power may only be exercised with the consent of some person, other than a police officer, the officer may use reasonable force, if necessary, in the exercise of the power.”

3.2.5 **Section 3, Criminal Law Act 1967**

“A person may use such force as is reasonable in the circumstances in the prevention of crime, or in the effecting or assisting in the lawful arrest of offenders or suspected offenders or of persons unlawfully at large.”

3.2.6 **Human Rights Act 1998**

If force is used against a person which is not reasonable or proportionate this may be considered to be a violation of the human rights of the person against whom the force was used.

The rights and freedoms which may be relevant to this SOP are:

Article 2 – Right to life

Article 3 – prohibition on torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

3.2.7 **Officers Must Be Up To Date With Their Mandatory Training**

Limb restraints will be issued to BTP officers only where those officers/PCSOs have received training to properly use this equipment within the Personal Safety Training package (PTSP) and hold a current First Aid certificate.

3.2.8 **Consideration Of The Persons Human Rights And Tactical Options**

The equipment is one of a number of tactical options available to officers faced with violence or the threat of violence. Its use must be lawful in all the circumstances and include consideration of an individual's human rights (see paragraph 3.2.7 above). The decision to use the equipment is an individual one for which the officer will be accountable. The impact factors in the CMM may assist officers in making such judgements.

3.2.9 **Consideration Of Pre-Existing Injury Of Detained Persons**

Careful consideration is needed in cases where a detained person has a known pre-existing injury that may be made worse by applying limb restraints. Where they are used, the condition of the detained person should be monitored and the decision regularly reassessed, where appropriate, in order to minimise the risk of injury. Where a person is suffering from a physical disability or are otherwise considered to be vulnerable, particular care should be taken when using this equipment.

3.2.10 **Avoidance Of Positional Asphyxia**

Positional asphyxia is defined as occurring where the position of the body interferes with respiration, resulting in asphyxia. This condition can occur extremely quickly (seconds rather than minutes) and can result in death. Laying a restrained person in the prone (face down) position can cause positional asphyxia particularly if the individual is overweight.

3.2.11 This condition is exacerbated when pressure is applied to the person's back or if he or she is left lying on their stomach. Once under control individuals must not be transported in the prone (face down) position. Rolling them onto their side, sitting, kneeling or standing in a position such that their chest and abdomen are upright and unobstructed are the optimum positions to facilitate the breathing of a restrained person. The person should be carefully monitored at all times and immediate steps taken to alleviate any breathing difficulties.

3.2.13 If there is any doubt regarding the medical well being of a detained person, officers must administer appropriate first aid and seek immediate medical assistance.

3.2.14 Situations where Limb Restraints Can be Used and their Intended Effect

Limb restraints are not a stand alone item of Personal Protective Equipment. They are intended **only** to be used once handcuffs have been applied to a person who is violently resisting officers or where there is a risk to the safety of the person, the officers or others at the scene and the situation requires further restraint to be applied.

3.2.15 There are a number of situations in which it is acknowledged that this equipment may be of use. These include the following, which is not an exclusive list:

- Moving a person from the scene of an arrest to a vehicle
- Placing a person into a vehicle or cell
- Transporting a person to a location (custody suite or place of safety)
- Removing a person from a vehicle or cell.

3.2.16 Once applied, the equipment should:

- Restrict the movement of the legs to the extent where the person cannot kick, offer substantial resistance or initiate an assault
- Permit officers to move the person by walking them (aided) or to carry them
- Allow officers to place the detained person safely into a vehicle, transport them, then remove them to a place of safety.

3.3 Transportation of Limb Restraints, Prisoners and Record Keeping

3.3.1 The equipment must be contained within the pouch supplied and may be carried with other personal protective equipment, and also supplied to vehicles or a designated area where they can be easily accessed.

3.3.2 Wherever possible a police van or ambulance (as appropriate) should be used to transport a person who has been restrained by means of a limb restraint on their legs. This will enable easier access and minimise the risk of injury.

3.3.3 The deployment of limb restraints are a use of force and as such their use must be recorded in the officer's/PCSOs pocket note book and recorded on the custody record.

3.3.4 Any use of limb restraint equipment must also be reported to FHQ through the submission of a [Use of Force form](#).

3.4 **Public Perception, Training and Techniques on Removal of Prisoners**

3.4.1 **Public Perception**

The use of force by police is a sensitive issue. Consequently, the use of this equipment needs to be seen by the public as being appropriate as preserving the dignity of the detained person where possible, whilst maintaining operational effectiveness.

3.4.2 **Training**

The provision of appropriate training is an integral element in the use of limb restraint equipment. Training must include the medical implications associated with the use of this equipment and also appropriate manual handling techniques. Only police officers and PCSOs who have received this training will use limb restraint equipment operationally.

3.4.3 **Officer**

Where a detained person is lying on the floor, it will be necessary to pick them up to transport them to a vehicle or cell. Officers and PCSOs must be aware of the requirements and techniques for safe lifting to ensure that they do not expose themselves to injury when carrying this out.

4 **MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE**

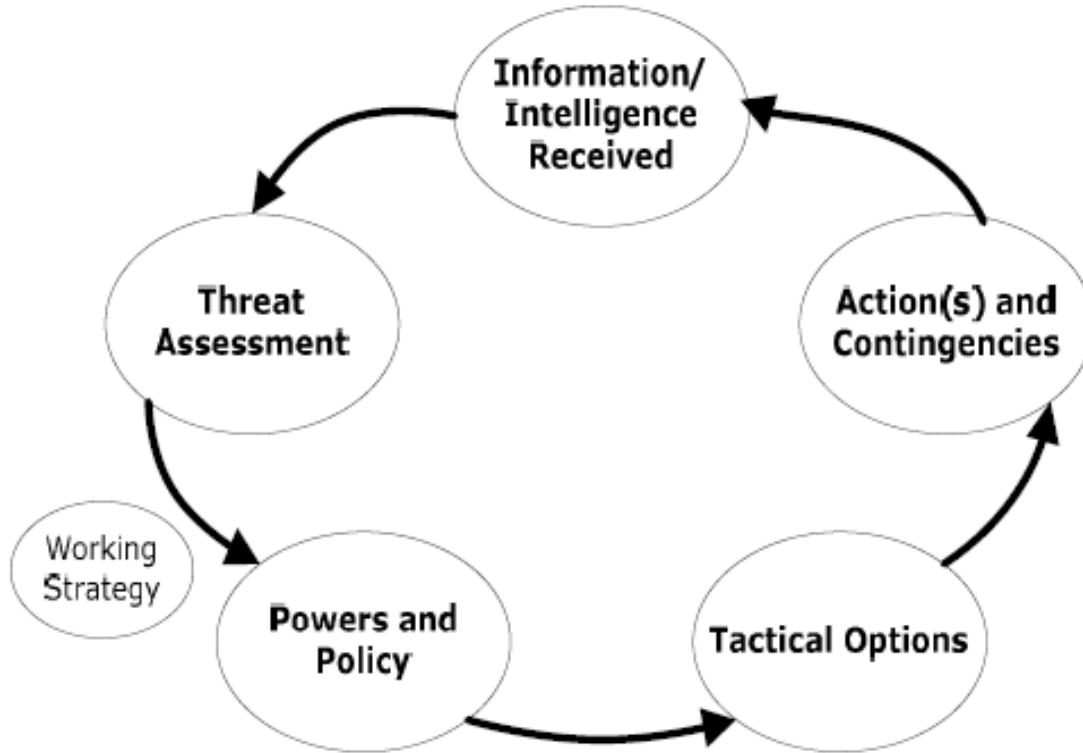
4.1 Compliance with this SOP will be monitored through the following processes:

- Supervision at operational deployments
- Training records held on Area
- Existing use of force monitoring arrangements.



5 APPENDICES

5.1 Conflict Management Model Diagram.



5.2 [The Use of Force Monitoring Form](#)