

TRANSIT POLICE



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT – POLICE

Effective Date: May 9, 2005
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 Office of Primary Responsibility: Inspector Operations Support

POLICY

The Transit Police is committed to ensuring the safety of its Members and issues various personal protective equipment to help reduce the risk of injury or death to Members. The Transit Police and its Members are required to comply with WorkSafeBC regulations, including the provisions regarding use of protective equipment (such as respirators and reflective vests), and the law. Members are required to adhere to the provisions of this policy and associated Transit Police policies regarding personal protective equipment, and as otherwise directed by the Chief Officer or designate. Members will be instructed on the limitations of their protective equipment. Further, Members assigned to specialty tasks/teams may be issued with task specific personal protective equipment (e.g., Lower Mainland Tactical Troop) and will be required to follow the instruction/policy associated to the use of that equipment.

[For related Transit Police policies and SOPs, refer to: OB100 – Drugs, OG050 – Opioid Overdose and Use of Naloxone, OB110 – Clandestine Labs, SOP76 – Patrol Plain Clothes Deployment, and SOP77 – Threat Response - Sapperton]

Definitions

Designated Constables – The Transit Police police officers appointed by the Police Board.

Member – Designated Constable (all ranks), the Chief Officer or a Deputy Chief Officer of the Transit Police.

Metro Vancouver Transit Police (“Transit Police”) – The operating name of the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Police Service.

General

Body Armour

1. Body armour, approved by the Chief Officer for the Transit Police, will be issued to every Member whose duties could require deployment to any public location, as well as when otherwise so determined for duties/roles.

2. Every Member will wear the issued body armour where designated mandatory in this policy and as set out in SOP77 – Threat Response - Sapperton.

Seat Belts

3. Members will comply with provincial regulations and Transit Police policy regarding seat belt use while on duty.

[Refer also to Transit Police policies: AG090 – Police Vehicles and OI010 – Prisoner Care, Control and Transportation.]

Reflective Vests

4. To comply with WorkSafeBC regulations, Members will wear approved reflective vests when their duties require ongoing exposure to vehicular traffic, as well as when directed to do so for safety and/or visibility during operational policing duties. Members may also wear issue reflective vests/outerwear when they feel it is advantageous or necessary to do so.

PROCEDURES

[Refer also to Transit Police policy: AC150 – Uniforms, Insignia and Dress Standards]

Body Armour

5. Except where and when designated mandatory, the wearing of body armour is at the Member's discretion. When in doubt, Members are to consult with their Supervisor.
6. It is designated mandatory that Members wear issued body armour:
 - (1) When engaged in uniformed patrol, enforcement or community policing duties, and when attending court in uniform;
 - (2) When engaged in plain clothes patrol and enforcement duties, unless the body armour would create more risk for the Member than not wearing body armour (in order for plain clothes Members to not wear body armour, written authorization of the Watch Commander is required); and
 - (3) During firearms training and qualifications (including when observing firearms training).
7. Body armour will be worn as follows:
 - (1) Concealed under clothing when worn by plain clothes Members;
 - (2) Concealed under the uniform shirt or in a Transit Police issued external carrier directly over top of the shirt when worn by uniformed Members; and

- (3) In active threat response situations, non-uniformed Members may wear the armour overtop of their clothes due to the need for rapid deployment.

Refer also to Transit Police SOP77 – Threat Response - Sapperton

Reflective Vests and Other Reflective Equipment

8. To comply with WorkSafeBC regulations, Members will wear reflective vests when their duties require ongoing exposure to vehicular traffic. These duties include:
 - (1) Planned traffic enforcement;
 - (2) Planned events where Members are required to direct traffic;
 - (3) Motor vehicle accident scenes (Members are further advised to position the police vehicle to provide protection while conducting the investigation); and
 - (4) Other duties requiring Members to be on or near the roadway and exposed to traffic, unless the reflective quality of the vest may endanger the Member's safety.
9. All Members assigned to duties where they will, or may, be exposed to traffic will be issued a reflective vest or outerwear. Other Members may be issued with a vest upon request or if their duties expose them to traffic as described above.
 - (1) The Transit Police may also issue Members additional reflective equipment (e.g., reflective helmets, wristbands or ankle bands, police sashes and raid vests) where deemed appropriate to their duties, such as when being deployed on bikes and patrol plain clothes.
10. In the event of an exigent circumstance with exposure to vehicular traffic and no reflective vest, a Member will, as soon as is practicable, borrow a reflective vest or transfer incident responsibility to another Member with the proper protective equipment.
11. Members found in contravention of the WorkSafeBC regulations as outlined above, may be liable for a penalty assessed by WorkSafeBC and/or subject to disciplinary action.
12. The Supervisor will ensure that:
 - (1) Each Member obtains a reflective vest or has been issued reflective outerwear;
 - (2) Members are aware that it is mandatory that they wear a reflective vest/outerwear when performing the duties as described in s. 8;
 - (3) Members wear a reflective vest/outerwear when performing duties described in s. 8 and when otherwise so directed to don a reflective vest/outerwear for safety or visibility during an operational assignment.

Respirators

13. Where required for assigned duties, Members will be provided with a personal issue respirator for use in potential emergencies.
14. Members will be required to comply with WorkSafeBC requirements for fit testing with their respirator, including:
 - (1) Must demonstrate that the respirator forms an effective seal with the Member's face;
 - (2) Must complete fit testing at least once a year;
 - (3) Must complete fit testing whenever there are changes to the Member's physical condition (e.g., weight change or presence of facial hair) that could affect respirator fit; and
 - (4) When being fit tested, must wear any other personal protective equipment that will be worn at the same time as the respirator and which could interfere with the respirator fit.

Equipment Management

15. The Inspector for Operations Support will be responsible for managing the issuance and maintenance of personal protective equipment (e.g., track and replace expired filters and respirators), conducting of fit testing and any training on the proper use of the protective equipment (including any parameters/limitations on equipment use), and keeping of any required records.
16. Each Member will be responsible for ensuring that their assigned respirator is stored at the current duty location (e.g., in HQ or Bridgeport respirator storage cabinet).
17. If a Member identifies a defect with their issued protective equipment that makes it unsafe, the Member will notify their Supervisor and turn in the equipment for replacement or repair.

References:

BC Motor Vehicle Act Regulations
WorkSafeBC Act and Occupational Health and Safety Regulation