

Limestone County Detention Center Inspection 2024-002-429

September 24-26, 2024





U.S. Department of Homeland Security

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Professional Responsibility ICE Inspections Washington, DC 20536-5501

Office of Detention Oversight Follow-Up Compliance Inspection 2024-002-429

Enforcement and Removal Operations ERO Houston Field Office

Limestone County Detention Center Groesbeck, Texas

September 24-26, 2024

FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION of the LIMESTONE COUNTY DETENTION CENTER

Groesbeck, Texas

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FACILITY OVERVIEW	4
FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION PROCESS	5
FINDINGS BY NATIONAL DETENTION STANDARDS 2019 MAJOR CATEGORIES	6
DETAINEE RELATIONS	7
FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION FINDINGS	7
CONCLUSION	7

FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION TEAM MEMBERS



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Inspections and Compliance Specialist ODO
Inspections and Compliance Specialist ODO
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FACILITY OVERVIEW

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) Office of Detention Oversight (ODO) conducted a follow-up compliance inspection of the Limestone County Detention Center (LCDC) in Groesbeck, Texas, from September 24 to 26, 2024. This inspection focused on the standards found deficient during ODO's last inspection of LCDC from May 7 to 9, 2024. The facility opened in 1990 and is owned and operated by LaSalle Corrections. The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at LCDC in 2019 under the oversight of ERO's Field Office Director in Houston (ERO Houston). ICE is an authorized user of this facility under a United States Marshals Service Intergovernmental Agreement contract, which does not specify an ICE National Detention Standard (NDS). ODO inspected LCDC against the NDS 2019, which is the NDS listed on the ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List as of September 23, 2024. ODO's assigned rating is for ERO's informational purposes only.

A warden handles daily facility operations and manages support personnel. Correct Commissary & Supplies provides food and commissary services, and LaSalle Corrections provides medical care at the facility. The facility was accredited by the American Correctional Association in August 2024.

Capacity and Population Statistics	Quantity
ICE Bed Capacity. ²	
Average ICE Population. ³	_
Adult Male Population (as of September 24, 2024)	
Adult Female Population (as of September 24, 2024)	

During its last rated inspection in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, ODO found 2 deficiencies in the following areas: Detention Files (1) and Grievance System (1).

Office of Detention Oversight September 2024

¹ This facility holds male and female detainees with low, medium-low, medium-high, and high security classification levels for periods greater than 72 hours.

² Data Source: ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List as of September 23, 2024.

³ Ihid

FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION PROCESS

ODO conducts biannual oversight inspections of ICE detention facilities with an average daily population (ADP) of 10 or more detainees, and where detainees are housed for longer than 72-hours, to assess compliance with ICE National Detention Standards. In FY 2021, to meet congressional requirements, ODO began conducting follow-up inspections at all over-72-hour ICE detention facilities with an ADP of 10 or more detainees that ODO conducted a full inspection of earlier in the FY. Follow-up inspections focus on facility compliance with detention standards that directly affect detainee life, health, safety, and/or well-being, and other standards ODO found deficient during the previous rated inspection to assess the facility's corrective actions taken to address those previously cited deficiencies.⁴

ODO identifies violations of ICE detention standards, ICE policies, or operational procedures, as "deficiencies." ODO highlights instances when the facility resolves deficiencies prior to completion of the ODO inspection. Where applicable, these corrective actions are annotated with "C" under the *Compliance Inspection Findings* section of this report.

While follow-up inspections are intended to focus on previously identified deficiencies, ODO will conduct a complete review of several core standards, which include but are not limited to Medical Care, Hunger Strikes, Suicide Prevention, Food Service, Environmental Health and Safety, Emergency Plans, Use of Force and Restraints/Use of Physical Control Measures and Restraints, Admission and Release, Classification, and Funds and Personal Property. ODO may decide to conduct a second full inspection of a facility in the same FY based on additional information obtained prior to ODO's arrival on-site. Factors ODO will consider when deciding to conduct a second full inspection will include the total number of deficiencies cited during the first inspection, the number of deficient standards found during the first inspection, the completion status of the first inspection's uniform corrective action (UCAP), and other information ODO obtains from internal and external sources ahead of the follow-up compliance inspection. Conditions found during the inspection may also lead ODO to assess new areas and identify new deficiencies or areas of concern should facility practices run contrary to ICE standards. Any areas found noncompliant during both the full and follow-up inspections are annotated as "Repeat Deficiencies" in this report.

⁴ ODO reviews the facility's compliance with selected standards in their entirety.

FINDINGS BY NATIONAL DETENTION STANDARDS 2019 MAJOR CATEGORIES

NDS 2019 Standards Inspected. ^{5,6}	Deficiencies	
Part 1 - Safety	'	
Environmental Health and Safety	0	
Sub-Total	0	
Part 2 - Security		
Admission and Release	0	
Custody Classification System	0	
Facility Security and Control	0	
Funds and Personal Property	0	
Use of Force and Restraints	0	
Special Management Units	0	
Staff-Detainee Communication	0	
Sub-Total	0	
Part 4 - Care	•	
Food Service	0	
Hunger Strikes	0	
Medical Care	0	
Significant Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention	0	
Sub-Total	0	
Part 5 - Activities		
Recreation	0	
Telephone Access	0	
Sub-Total	0	
Part 6 - Justice		
Grievance System	0	
Sub-Total	0	
Part 7 - Administration and Management		
Detention Files	0	
Sub-Total	0	
Total Deficiencies	0	

⁵ For greater detail on ODO's findings, see the Follow-up Compliance Inspection Findings section of this report.

⁶ Beginning in FY 2024, ODO instituted a process of rotating all standards every other year. As a result, some standards may not be present in all inspections.

DETAINEE RELATIONS

ODO interviewed two detainees, who each voluntarily agreed to participate. Eight other detainees declined ODO's request for an interview. None of the detainees made allegations of discrimination, mistreatment, or abuse. Both detainees reported satisfaction with facility services.

FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION FINDINGS

ODO had no findings during the inspection.

CONCLUSION

During this inspection, ODO assessed the facility's compliance with 16 standards under NDS 2019 and found the facility in compliance with all 16 standards. Since LCDC's last rated inspection in May 2024, the facility's compliance with NDS 2019 has trended upward. LCDC went from 2 deficiencies in 2 standards in May 2024 to no deficiencies during this most recent follow-up inspection. LCDC completed its UCAP for its last inspection in May 2024, which likely resolved the previous deficiencies ODO cited. ODO recommends ERO Houston continue to work with the facility to ensure the facility maintains its high-level of compliance with the NDS 2019.

Compliance Inspection Results Compared	FY 2024 Full Inspection (NDS 2019)	FY 2024 Follow-Up Inspection (NDS 2019)
Standards Reviewed	21	16
Deficient Standards	2	0
Overall Number of Deficiencies	2	0
Priority Component Deficiencies	0	0
Repeat Deficiencies	0	0
Areas Of Concern	0	0
Corrective Actions	0	0
Facility Rating	Superior	N/A



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