

Office of Professional Responsibility

Richwood Correctional Center Inspection 2025-001-035

November 5-7, 2024



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement



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
Compliance Inspection
2025-001-035**

**Enforcement and Removal Operations
ERO New Orleans Field Office**

**Richwood Correctional Center
Monroe, Louisiana**


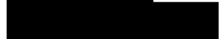
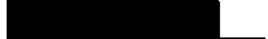
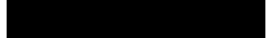
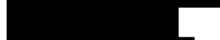
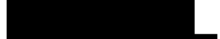
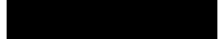
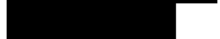
November 5-7, 2024

COMPLIANCE INSPECTION
of the
RICHWOOD CORRECTIONAL CENTER
Monroe, Louisiana

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COMPLIANCE INSPECTION TEAM MEMBERS

	Team Lead	ODO
	Assistant Team Lead	ODO
	Senior Inspections and Compliance Specialist	ODO
	Inspections and Compliance Specialist	ODO
	Contractor	Creative Corrections
	Contractor	Creative Corrections
	Contractor	Creative Corrections
	Contractor	Creative Corrections

FACILITY OVERVIEW

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) Office of Detention Oversight (ODO) conducted a compliance inspection of the Richwood Correctional Center (RCC) in Monroe, Louisiana, from November 5 to 7, 2024.¹ The facility opened in 1998 and is owned and operated by LaSalle Corrections. The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at RCC in 2019 under the oversight of ERO’s Field Office Director in New Orleans (ERO New Orleans). The facility operates under the Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS) 2011 (Revised 2016).

[REDACTED] A warden handles daily facility operations and manages [REDACTED] support personnel. Performance Food provides food services, CorrectMed provides medical care, and Correct Commissary provides commissary services at the facility. The facility was accredited by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care in June 2022. In July 2022, RCC was audited for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and was DHS PREA certified.

Capacity and Population Statistics	Quantity
ICE Bed Capacity ²	[REDACTED]
Average ICE Population ³	[REDACTED]
Adult Male Population (as of November 5, 2024)	[REDACTED]
Adult Female Population (as of November 5, 2024) ⁴	[REDACTED]

During its last rated inspection, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, ODO found 27 deficiencies in the following areas: Admission and Release (1); Correspondence and Other Mail (14); Facility Security and Control (2); Medical Care (4); Post Orders (1); Staff-Detainee Communication (1); and Telephone Access (4).

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 November 4, 2024.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ ODO confirmed the facility holds both male and female detainees; however, no males were onsite, only females were onsite.

COMPLIANCE INSPECTION PROCESS

ODO conducts oversight inspections of ICE detention facilities with an average daily population of one or more, and where detainees are housed for over 72 hours, to assess compliance with ICE national detention standards. While these inspections focus on facility compliance with detention standards that directly affect detainee life, health, safety, and/or well-being, in FY 2024 ODO added additional standards to the scope of each full inspection to ensure ODO inspects every standard at each facility at least once every other year.⁵

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.

Upon completion of each inspection, ODO conducts a closeout briefing with facility and local ERO officials to discuss preliminary findings. A summary of these findings is shared with ERO management officials. Thereafter, ODO provides ICE leadership with a final compliance inspection report to: (i) assist ERO in developing and initiating corrective action plans; and (ii) provide senior executives with an independent assessment of facility operations. ODO’s findings inform ICE executive management in their decision-making to better allocate resources across the agency’s entire detention inventory.

⁵ ODO reviews the facility’s compliance with selected standards in their entirety.

FINDINGS BY PERFORMANCE-BASED NATIONAL DETENTION STANDARDS 2011 (REVISED 2016) MAJOR CATEGORIES

PBNDs 2011 (Revised 2016) Standards Inspected ^{6,7}	Deficiencies
Part 1 - Safety	
Emergency Plans	0
Environmental Health and Safety	0
Transportation (by Land)	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 2 - Security	
Admission and Release	2
Custody Classification System	0
Contraband	0
Funds and Personal Property	0
Key and Lock Control	0
Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention	0
Special Management Units	0
Staff-Detainee Communication	0
Tool Control	0
Use of Force and Restraints	0
Sub-Total	2
Part 4 - Care	
Food Service	2
Medical Care	0
Medical Care (Women)	0
Significant Self-harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention	0
Terminal Illness, Advance Directives and Death	0
Disability Identification, Assessment, and Accommodation	0
Sub-Total	2
Part 5 - Activities	
Recreation	0
Visitation	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 6 - Justice	
Detainee Handbook	1
Grievance System	0
Legal Rights Group Presentations	0

⁶ For greater detail on ODO's findings, see the *Compliance Inspection Findings* section of this report.

⁷ 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.

Sub-Total	1
Part 7 - Administration and Management	
Interviews and Tours	0
Sub-Total	0
Total Deficiencies	5

DETAINEE RELATIONS

ODO interviewed 30 detainees, who each voluntarily agreed to participate. ODO attempted to interview an additional 20 detainees, but all 20 detainees declined ODO’s request for an interview. None of the detainees made allegations of discrimination, mistreatment, or abuse. All detainees reported satisfaction with facility services.

COMPLIANCE INSPECTION FINDINGS

SECURITY

ADMISSION AND RELEASE (AR)

ODO interviewed facility staff, reviewed █ detainee files, observed the admission process of █ detainees, and found in █ out of █ files and in █ out of █ detainee admissions, staff did not fingerprint the detainees during the admissions process (**Deficiency AR-11**).⁸

ODO interviewed facility staff, reviewed █ detainee release files, observed the detainee release process of █ detainees, and found in █ out of █ release files and in █ out of █ detainee releases, staff did not fingerprint the detainees prior to their release from the facility (**Deficiency AR-78**).⁹

CARE

FOOD SERVICE (FS)

ODO toured the FS department, tested the walk-in freezer safety lock mechanism, and found the safety lock mechanism on the inside of the walk-in freezer was jammed and would not release from the inside (**Deficiency FS-457**).¹⁰

ODO toured the FS department, tested the walk-in freezer safety lock mechanism, and found the safety lock mechanism on the inside of the walk-in freezer was jammed and would not release

⁸ “Admission processes for a newly admitted detainee shall include, but not be limited to: ...

c. Photographing and fingerprinting, including notation of identifying marks or other unusual physical characteristics.”

See ICE PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016), Standard, Admission and Release, Section (V)(B)(1)(c).

⁹ “Facility staff assigned to processing must complete certain procedures before any detainee’s release, removal, or transfer from the facility. Necessary steps include but are not limited to: ... Closing files and fingerprinting.” See ICE PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016), Standard, Admission and Release, Section (V)(H).

¹⁰ “Walk-in boxes shall be equipped with safety locks that require no more than 15 pounds of pressure to open easily from the inside.” See ICE PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016), Standard, Food Service, Section (V)(K)(8).

from the inside (**Deficiency FS-458**¹¹).

JUSTICE

DETAINEE HANDBOOK (DH)

The facility administrator did not provide nor have readily available a copy of the ICE Handbook and the local supplement for every staff member who had contact with detainees (**Deficiency DH-26**¹²).

CONCLUSION

During this inspection, ODO assessed the facility’s compliance with 25 standards under PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016) and found the facility in compliance with 22 of those standards. ODO found five deficiencies in the remaining three standards. Since RCC’s last rated inspection in November 2023, the facility’s overall compliance with the PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016) has trended upward. RCC went from 7 deficient standards and 27 deficiencies in November 2023 to 3 deficient standards and 5 deficiencies during this most recent inspection. RCC completed its uniform corrective action plan for its last inspection in November 2023, which likely resolved the previous deficiencies ODO cited. ODO recommends ERO New Orleans continue to work with the facility to resolve the deficiencies that remain outstanding in accordance with contractual obligations.

Compliance Inspection Results Compared	FY 2024 Full Inspection (PBNDS 2011) (Revised 2016)	FY 2025 Full Inspection (PBNDS 2011) (Revised 2016)
Standards Reviewed	28	25
Deficient Standards	7	3
Overall Number of Deficiencies	27	5
Priority Component Deficiencies	0	0
Repeat Deficiencies	0	0
Areas Of Concern	0	0
Corrective Actions	2	0
Facility Rating	Acceptable/Adequate	Superior

¹¹ “If latches and locks are incorporated in the door’s design and operation, the interior release mechanism must open the door with the same amount of pressure even when locks or bars are in place.” See ICE PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016), Standard, Food Service, Section (V)(K)(8).

¹² “The facility administrator shall provide a copy of the ICE Handbook and the local supplement to every staff member who has contact with detainees.” See ICE PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016), Standard, Detainee Handbook, Section (V)(D).



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