



Department of Justice and Public Safety
Adult Custody Services

Policy: **Electro-Muscular Disruption Device D47**
Effective: November 2009
Revised: December 2022

MISSION STATEMENT

Adult Custody Services is committed to providing professional practices that respect human rights and ensure safety for all. To be successful we will deliver fair practices, incorporate transparent policies and procedures, ensure independent quality assurance processes, and provide program access that allows for educational, cultural, traditional, and faith-based services as well as mental wellness and community re-entry assistance.

PURPOSE

To outline protocol in relation to Electro-Muscular Disruption Device

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

[Section 25 through 37 Criminal Code of Canada](#)
[Section 27 Corrections Act](#)

SCOPE

This policy applies to all employees of the Adult Custody Services division of the Department of Justice and Public Safety.

POLICY GUIDELINES

It is the policy of Community and Adult Custody Services that Electro-muscular incapacitation devices (Taser X26 P/ X2):

- may be deployed for the purpose of controlling an offender's behaviour as outlined in the division's use of force policy.

Electro-muscular in capacitation devices (Taser X26P / X2):

- will only be used after all other reasonable efforts to control a violent person have failed and when the required authorization is granted.
- ECD's shall only be deployed after all existing control methods have failed and where a client is actively combative or posing a risk of death or grievous bodily harm to themselves, staff, or others.
- will not be used on a female client who is confirmed as being pregnant
- will not be deployed on a minor under the age of nineteen (19) years old
- is not intended to be used as a general substitute for other less than lethal force options which precede it in the use of force management model.
- is positioned on the use of force management model above Oleoresin Capsicum; and
- is never to be used for coercion of any type.



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NOTE: The ECD device authorized for use only in relation to adult clients and associated facilities are the: TASER X26p and X2.

Definitions:

Electronic Control Device: (ECD) this device uses an electrical waveform to directly cause contraction of the muscles and override the central nervous system.

TASER: The TASER is an acronym for *Thomas A. Swift Electrical Rifle*. It is used exclusively to describe the X26P and x2 Advanced TASER, manufactured by TASER International. The electrical output of the X26P and X2 is 50,000 Volts at 26 Watts. It is a type of ECD approved for use.

PROCEDURE

Certified staff only

Only Officers who maintain current certification in:

- First Aid.
- Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation.
- Verbal Crisis Intervention.
- Electronic Control Device Application; and
- have been designated by the Superintendent,

are authorized to use ECD's.

Re-certification shall be consistent to Provincial Government policing standards or earlier, if deemed necessary.

Authorization

Electronic Control Devices shall not be used without authorization from the Superintendent or designate. In their absence the Sergeant shall contact the Provincial Adult Custody Services on-call authority for authorization.

Protective equipment

Emergency Response Teams shall always be required to wear the departmentally approved emergency response equipment when participating in a controlled response.

Video Recording

All incidents involving the potential use of an *Electronic Control Device* shall be videotaped in accordance with Policy D-33, beginning with a narrative of the situation (pre-briefing) by the CERT Team Leader/Sergeant and concluding with a post incident summary.

Deployment

Once authorization has been received, the ERT team will have two officers armed with the X26P /X2 Taser. There will be a:

- "Primary Officer" and
- "Secondary Officer"

Client mobile escort

The X26P/ X2 Taser may be issued as approved equipment when transporting "High Risk/Security", clients with the approval of the Superintendent or designate.

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Note: Only One (1) X26P/X2 Taser is required for mobile escorts

Warnings

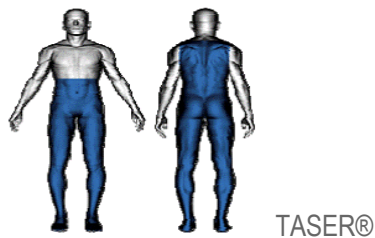
Prior to firing an ECD device, the certified operator will issue the following warning in a clear, calm, and controlled voice: **“Stand still or you will be hit with 50,000 volts of electricity; do you understand?”**

- the ECD shall be cycled at the end of each warning.
- the warning shall be repeated clearly every thirty (30) seconds; and
- three (3) clear warnings shall be issued before a deployment

Note: Verbal Crisis Intervention strategies shall continue between each warning and the team leader may order a stand down at any time if compliance is achieved.

Application

The operator will aim the ECD device to the **preferred** point of aim, the lower center of mass for shots to the front of the body.



Should the ECD device be deployed, a full 5-second cycle deployment should be given without interruption unless circumstances dictate otherwise.

Subsequent ECD applications beyond the initial 5 seconds are **only** to be used if the client violent behaviour or other risk factors continue.

When the client has complied with direction to the satisfaction of the operator, the operator will indicate that it is safe to apply restraint equipment.

The ECD shall only be used in the stun mode when the original and secondary deployments are ineffective and the safety of staff, the public, other clients, or the security of the institutions is compromised.

Excited Delirium Syndrome

Certified Operators shall be aware of signs and behaviors that are associated with a condition known as **“Excited Delirium Syndrome”**.

Excited delirium is a **medical emergency**.

Signs include:

- extreme agitation.
- bizarre behavior.
- inappropriate nudity.



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- imperviousness to pain.
- paranoia.
- exhaustive exertion.
- “superhuman” strength.
- hallucinations.
- sweating profusely

If a client is exhibiting signs or behaviors associated with “**Excited Delirium Syndrome**”:

- i. Medical assistance shall be immediately summoned; and
- ii. When tactically prepared, combine the use of an ECD device with immediate physical restraint techniques and medical assistance.

Medical Services examination

A medical professional will examine the client as soon as is operationally feasible following a deployment. The medical staff will submit a report detailing involvement and findings.

Observation Log

An observation log will be kept on the offender for 24 hours after being exposed to an ECD device.

Outside examination

In the event a medical Professional is unavailable, the Sergeant shall, as soon as operationally possible, (following a risk assessment) transport the client to be seen at a local hospital emergency department

Incident reports

All staff involved will prepare detailed incident reports, which are to.

- ◆ reflect “Taser Deployment” in the incident summary column.
- ◆ capture all information related to a deployment.
- ◆ their personal involvement and observations; and
- ◆ be submitted prior to the end of the shift.

Sergeant

The Sergeant shall submit a written report by the end of the day in which the incident occurred that

- ◆ summarizes the incident,
- ◆ details their personal involvement; and
- ◆ speaks directly to the prevailing risk(s) that predicated seeking authorization to deploy the Electronic Control device.

Verbal notification

The Superintendent or designate will verbally notify the Director of Adult Custody Services as soon as possible.

Director of Adult Custody Services

The Director of Adult Custody Services shall receive a preliminary review from the Superintendent within one business day of a deployment.

Superintendent report

The Superintendent will gather all incident reports and forward them along with the video of the incident and a written briefing report to the Director of Adult Custody Services within 5 business days.



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Director of Adult Custody Services review

Director of Adult Custody Services shall review every incident where authorization has been granted (even if the ECD is not discharged). The Director of Adult Custody Services shall, upon review, prepare a briefing note for the ADM and may recommend that the incident be forwarded to a Critical Incident Review Team for investigation.

Local Policy

The Superintendent will develop local policies governing the storage, disposal, and training for use of *electronic control devices* that are consistent with all aspects of this policy (D-47).

RELATED POLICY

- D18 Client Escorts
- D20 Emergencies
- D21 Disturbances
- D29 Use of Force
- D28 Cell Extraction
- D30 Restraint Equipment
- D32 Oleoresin Capsicum - *Pepper Spray*
- D33 Video Recording
- D48 Critical Incidents Investigations and Reporting
- Adult Institutional Policy Manual N.B.