

Law Enforcement Equipment Use Policy

California Assembly Bill 481



CITY & COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Police Department

July 11, 2022



California Assembly Bill 481, codified at Government Code sections 7070-7075, requires law enforcement agencies in California to obtain approval from the applicable governing body, of a Law Enforcement Use of Equipment Policy as specified, by ordinance.

Defines 15 categories of equipment typically used by Law Enforcement Agencies.
Requires public posting and BOS hearings considering Department’s equipment use policy for equipment acquired prior January 2022.
BOS review of any AB 481 equipment acquired after January 2022 prior to SFPD procurement, acquisition or use.
SFPD Annual Reporting & Public Hearing.
BOS annual review of the approved use policy and may decide whether SFPD can continue use of equipment.

USE POLICY

The proposed law enforcement equipment must include the following:

Department's inventory of equipment subject to the provisions of AB 481
Description of authorized uses
Fiscal impact
Legal/procedural rules
Training requirements

SFPD Inventory Acquired Prior to January 2022

(1) Unmanned, remotely piloted, powered aerial or ground vehicles. *Note – all systems in SFPD inventory are ground vehicles	REMOTEC F5A REMOTEC F6 REMOTEC RONS QinetiQ TALON QinetiQ DRAGON RUNNER IROBOT FirstLook Recon Robotics Recon Scout ThrowBot (All items also governed by SF Admin Code 19B)	(7) Battering rams, slugs, and breaching apparatuses that are explosive in nature. However, items designed to remove a lock, such as bolt cutters, or a handheld ram designed to be operated by one person, are specifically excluded from this subdivision.	Energetic Breaching Tool Kinetic Breaching Tool Pan Disrupter (attached to a robot) Ballistic Breacher Rounds
(2) Mine-resistant ambush-protected (MRAP) vehicles or armored personnel carriers. However, police versions of standard consumer vehicles are specifically excluded from this subdivision.	Lenco BearCat with a Patriot 3 Liberator Ramp System	(12) “Flashbang” grenades and explosive breaching tools, “tear gas,” and “pepper balls,” excluding standard, service-issued handheld pepper spray.	Flash Bangs Pepperball Systems
& (3) High mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles (HMMWV), commonly referred to as Humvees, two and one-half-ton trucks, five-ton trucks, or wheeled vehicles that have a breaching or entry apparatus attached. However, unarmored all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and motorized dirt bikes are specifically excluded from this subdivision.		(13) Taser Shockwave, microwave weapons, water cannons, and the Long-Range Acoustic Device (LRAD).	LRAD
(5) Command and control vehicles that are either built or modified to facilitate the operational control and direction of public safety units.		(14) The following projectile launch platforms and their associated munitions: 40mm projectile launchers, “bean bag,” rubber bullet, and specialty impact munition (SIM) weapons.	40mm Launcher 12 Gauge (GA) Pump-Action Shotgun 12GA Super-Sock Bean Bag Model 2581 CTS 4556 OC Impact CTS 4556 OC Impact CTS 4340 OC Liquid Barricade CTS 4441 OC Powder Barricade CTS 4530 CS Impact CTS 4330 Liquid Barricade CTS 4431 Powder Barricade CTS 4557 Foam Baton CTS 5230 Baffled Canister CTS 6210 White Smoke Canister



Department General Orders (DGOs) are the Department's most authoritative and permanent directives, established, revised, and adopted by the Police Commission after a public hearing for the overall administration and management of the Department and the general conduct of all members. These policies go through a rigorous drafting period that includes consideration of Department of Police Accountability and other stakeholder policy recommendations.

DGO 5.01 Use of Force

DGO 5.16 Obtaining Search Warrants

DGO 5.17 Bias Free Policing

DGO 8.01 Critical Incident Evaluation and Notification

DGO 8.02 Hostage and Barricaded Suspect Incident

DGO 8.07 Hazardous Material Incidents

DGO 8.08 Bomb Threats, Clandestine Laboratories, Destructive Devices, Explosions, and Fireworks

SFPD Department Notice 21-128 Command Van Requests

SFPD Crowd Control Manual

Uses

Command vans are used during Safe Shopper Operations or other operations where police presence and visibility acts as a deterrent to crime as well as during critical incidents where an incident command post is necessary.

Robots (remotely controlled unmanned machine that operates on the ground) are used as bomb assessment and situational awareness tools that allow for distance between an officer and a subject or an officer and an explosive device. The robots are equipped with cameras and can approach dangerous situations allowing time and distance between subjects and law enforcement. The alternative is deploying multiple officers to confront a subject without knowing the specific layout elevating the risk to officers and subjects. Regarding explosive device assessments, the robots eliminate need for officers to approach and destinate the device, minimizing the time on target (the amount of time an officer is next to a suspicious package/device) and provides more protection for bomb techs.

Extended Range Impact Weapon (ERIWs) are the Department's less lethal option (bean bag guns). ERIWs allows officers to address a threat from a greater distance and provides an alternative option for deadly force when reasonable. The bean bag shotgun allows officers to confront an armed or dangerous suspect at a longer distance. This can potentially prevent a deadly force encounter. The alternative is the use of a department issued firearm.

Uses

Breaching tools like pan disrupter can be attached to robots and is used by the Explosive Ordnance Detail (EOD) to breach a potential improvised explosive device (IED). The pan disrupter is a percussion actuated non-electrically fired device. It is a steel tube filled with water, plugged off on one side while the other side is capped by a shotgun shell. A breach is used which has a firing pin that is projected forward by an explosively driven shock wave from a shock tube. The pan disrupter is fired remotely so the bomb tech does not have to be anywhere near the package as it is breached.

Chemical agents like pepper spray are specifically formulated smokes, liquids, and powders designed to temporarily disable a person by causing irritation of the mucous membrane, eyes, and skin. When deployed, they provide a less lethal force option and significantly reduce the risk of injury to citizens, suspects, and police officers. These agents may be used in criminal apprehensions, critical incidents, or as a dispersal agent during crowd control situations (pepper ball). The alternative is placing officers in the middle of a disruptive or hostile crowd incident where physical force or restraint methods may be used against subjects. The use of these agents makes the environment inhospitable enough for subjects to stop violent activity on their own accord without need for physical interactions with law enforcement.

Public Website

<https://www.sanfranciscopolice.org/your-sfpd/policies/law-enforcement-equipment-use-policy>

Questions?

SAN FRANCISCO
POLICE DEPARTMENT