



Use of Force - Resources & Indicators

Summary

Force shall only be used when strictly necessary and must be proportionate to the threat and appropriate to the situation.

The Code

Rules for the Use of Force

29. Signatory Companies will adopt Rules for the Use of Force consistent with applicable law and the minimum requirements contained in the section on Use of Force in this Code and agree those rules with the Client. Use of Force.

30. Signatory Companies will require their Personnel to take all reasonable steps to avoid the use of force. If force is used, it shall be in a manner consistent with applicable law. In no case shall the use of force exceed what is strictly necessary, and should be proportionate to the threat and appropriate to the situation.

31. Signatory Companies will require that their Personnel not use firearms against persons except in self-defence or defence of others against the imminent threat of death or serious injury, or to prevent the perpetration of a particularly serious crime involving grave threat to life.

32. To the extent that Personnel are formally authorized to assist in the exercise of a state's law enforcement authority, Signatory Companies will require that their use of force or weapons will comply with all national and international obligations applicable to regular law enforcement officials of that state and, as a minimum, with the standards expressed in the United Nations Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials (1990).

Resources

1. [Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials - OHCHR](#)
 2. [Handbook on the Use of Force for Private Security Companies](#)
 3. [United Nations Security Management System Security Policy Manual](#)
 4. [ANSI/ASIS PSC.1-2012: Management System for Quality of Private Security Company Operations \(PSC.1\), section 9.5](#)
 5. [ISO 18788:2015 - Management system for private security operations -- Requirements with guidance for use, section 8.3](#)
 6. [ISO 28007-1: 2015 - Ships and marine technology -- Guidelines for Private Maritime Security Companies \(PMSC\) providing privately contracted armed security personnel \(PCASP\) on board ships \(and pro forma contract, section 5.3](#)
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Indicators

In order to assess Member Company compliance with the Code, the ICoCA develops [performance indicators](#) to help companies track whether they are complying with the Code. ICoCA also uses these indicators when assessing Member Company compliance with the Code and their commitment to continual improvement. Indicators can focus on procedures, outcomes and/or performance. The following indicators relate to Use of Force.

Outcome Indicator:

The Member Company and its personnel use force only based on the principles of necessity and proportionality and consistent with applicable national and international law.

Procedural Indicators:

1. The Member Company has adopted written Rules for the Use of Force.
 2. The Rules for the Use of Force:
 - 2.1. Restrict the use of force to only where necessary;
 - 2.2. Restrict the use of force to only where proportionate to the threat;
 - 2.3. Restrict the use of force to only where appropriate to the situation;
 - 2.4. Detail steps for the use of force continuum;
 - 2.5. Restrict the use of firearms to the following circumstances:
 - To self-defence;
 - To defend others against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury;or
 - To prevent the perpetration of a particularly serious crime involving grave threat to life.
 - 2.6. Explain the process for personnel to report incidents related to the use of force;
 - 2.7. Are consistent with applicable national and international law.
 3. For all assistance in the exercise of a state's law enforcement authority, the Rules for the Use of Force are consistent with:
 - 3.1. The rules applicable to law enforcement officials of the state; or
 - 3.2. At a minimum, with the United Nations Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials (1990).
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