

the governing body responsible for the facility. These numbers will be reviewed and adjusted whenever new housing units are constructed or when housing units are permanently closed. (Revised January 2026)

**2013 LIVING UNITS - EXISTING FACILITIES PRIOR TO JULY 1980  
(Appendix I)**

**2014 PHYSICAL PLANT - ALL NEW FACILITIES SINCE JULY 1980  
(Appendix J)**

**2015 LIVING UNITS - NON-DIRECT SUPERVISION FACILITIES SINCE  
JULY 1980 (Appendix K)**

**2016 RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE (Revised August 2005)  
(Appendix L)**

**2017 PHYSICAL PLANT - DIRECT SUPERVISION FACILITIES ONLY  
(Appendix M)**

**2018 PHYSICAL PLANT STANDARDS (Revised January 2026)**

This standard applies to all facilities planned, approved, and constructed after July 1, 2025. Physical plant and housing standards prior to July 1, 2025, can be found in the appendices of the Standards. These standards can only be applied to facilities planned, approved, and constructed after July 1, 2025, as noted in section 2012 of the Standards.

**2018 - 1 Special Purpose Cells**

Each facility shall have at least one (1) special-purpose cell or room that is designed to prevent injury to an inmate who is under the influence of alcohol or narcotics, or for inmates who are uncontrollably violent or self-destructive. This room shall be subject to staff observation or be continuously monitored by camera from a twenty-four (24) hour staff position.

**2018 - 2 FIRE CODES**

The facility conforms to applicable federal, state, and/or local building and fire safety codes. Compliance is documented by the authority having jurisdiction. A fire alarm and automatic smoke detection system are required, as approved by the authority having jurisdiction. (See Appendix B.)

The applicable code(s) should be applied to all areas of the facility. Reports of periodic inspections and any actions taken in respect to those inspections must be available. The authority having jurisdiction in South Carolina is the State Fire Marshal.

### **2018 - 3 DESIGN FOR SEPARATION**

The facility is designed and constructed so that inmates can be separated according to existing laws, regulations, standards, and according to the facility's classification plan.

### **2018 - 4 ACCESSIBILITY TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

All parts of the facility that are available to the public are accessible to and usable by staff and visitors with disabilities. The facility shall comply with the required standards established by the American with Disabilities Act as it relates to a detention facility.

### **2018 - 5 ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS**

Adequate space is provided for administrative, security, professional, and clerical staff. This space includes conference rooms, storage room for records, public lobby, and toilet facilities.

### **2018 - 6 STAFF AREAS**

Staff needs are met through providing adequate spaces in locations that are convenient for use. Staff are provided with the following:

- \* an area to change clothes and to shower
- \* an area, room, and/or employee lounge that offers privacy from inmates and provides space for meals
- \* space for training
- \* space for shift change briefings
- \* toilets and wash basins that are not used by inmates
- \* facilities shall be appropriate for male and female staff.

### **2018 - 7 SECURITY**

The facility has adequate exits that are properly positioned, unobstructed, and distinctly and permanently marked to ensure the timely evacuation of inmates and staff in the event of fire or other emergency. Exits should be provided to ensure the safety of inmates, staff, and visitors. All exits should be kept clear and free of obstructions and maintained in a usable condition. They should lead directly to a hazard-free area where adequate supervision can be provided.

### **2018 - 8 CONTROL CENTER**

Space is provided for a twenty-four (24) hour control center for monitoring and coordinating the facility's security, life safety, and communications systems. The control center provides access to a wash basin and toilet. The control center should contain sufficient space for monitoring and coordination of all internal and external security systems, communications systems, safety alarms and detection systems, key control, and other mechanical and electrical systems.

## **2018 - 9 PERIMETER SECURITY**

The facility's perimeter is controlled by appropriate means to provide that inmates remain within the perimeter and to prevent access by the general public without proper authorization. The perimeter should be well lit to provide proper observation, and the perimeter lighting shall be included in the emergency power grid. The means chosen to ensure perimeter security should reflect the facility's needs based on size and the degree of security required. Some methods are perimeter surveillance devices (e.g. cameras, electronic, pressure, or sound detection systems), mobile patrols, or a combination of these techniques. All areas adjacent to the perimeter should be visible under all conditions.

## **2018 - 10 ENTRANCES AND EXITS**

Pedestrians and vehicles enter and leave at designated points in the perimeter. Safety vestibules and sally ports constitute the only breaches in the perimeter. All safety vestibules and sally ports shall be of sufficient size to permit passage of a loaded ambulance stretcher between interlocking doors.

## **2018 - 11 EMERGENCY POWER AND COMMUNICATIONS**

The facility has the equipment necessary to maintain 700 Life & Safety, 701 critical infrastructure and 702 equipment necessary to maintain operations in an emergency in accordance with the established building, electrical, and fire codes.

The facility should have emergency power units, either battery- or motor-driven, to provide essential lighting and life-sustaining functions within the facility and to maintain outside communications in an emergency. Emergency equipment, battery backups, and power generators are tested according to manufacturers' recommendations and the established fire codes applicable to an institutional facility. Emergency power systems shall be repaired or replaced as necessary and records of all testing, repair, or replacement shall be maintained by the facility for inspection.

## **2018 - 12 INTAKE AREA**

Inmates are separated from the general population during the admissions process. Temporary holding cell(s) or room(s) with fixed benches to seat all inmates at rated capacity (twenty (20) square feet per inmate), and which have operable water closets, lavatories, and drinking fountains available, shall be provided. The following additional components shall be included in the intake area:

- Booking Area
- Shower Facilities
- Inmate Telephones
- Sally Port

### **2018 - 13 ADDITIONAL REQUIRED AREAS**

The following additional components shall be included in the design of the facility and shall be reasonably accessible within the facility:

- Medical examination room
- Secure vault or room for storage of inmates' personal property
- Interview room

### **2018 - 14 HOUSING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

Disabled inmates are housed in a manner that provides for their safety and security and meets Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Rooms, cells, or housing units used by people with disabilities are designed for their use and provide for integration with the general population. Appropriate facility programs and activities are accessible to inmates with disabilities who are confined in the facility. If the facility accepts individuals with disabilities, it must provide for their housing and use of/access to facility resources.

### **2018 - 15 EQUIPMENT SPACE**

Separate and adequate space is provided for mechanical and electrical equipment.

### **2018 - 16 JANITORIAL CLOSETS**

Adequate space is provided for janitorial storage accessible to the living and activity areas. The storage area is equipped with a sink and with cleaning equipment.

### **2018 - 17 NATURAL LIGHT & LIGHT LEVELS – CELLS OR ROOMS**

Inmates in the general population who are confined in their rooms/cells have access to natural light. Access to natural light may be accomplished through the use of skylights and other means that will allow natural light to enter the area where the inmates are housed. The lighting levels in inmate rooms / cells is at least twenty (20) footcandles at desk levels and in personal grooming areas as documented by an independent qualified source.

### **2018 -18 FACILITY LIGHT LEVELS**

Lighting throughout the facility is determined by the tasks to be performed, interior surface finishes and colors, type and spacing of light sources, outside lighting, and shadows and glare. Emergency lighting shall be arranged to provide initial illumination that is not less than an average of one (1) footcandle (11 lux) and a minimum at floor level. Illumination levels shall be permitted to decline to 0.6 footcandle (6 lux) average and a minimum at any point of 0.06 footcandle (0.6 lux) at the end of the emergency lighting time duration. A maximum-to-minimum illumination uniformity ratio of 40 to 1 shall not be exceeded. In Group I-2 occupancies, failure of a single lamp in a luminaire

shall not reduce the illumination level to less than 0.2 footcandle (2.2 lux) any point of 0.1 footcandle (1 lux) measured along the path of egress.

#### **2018 - 19 INDOOR AIR QUALITY**

Ventilation system(s) is/are in compliance with the applicable Standard Mechanical Code and Standard Building Codes or portions thereof adopted by the State of South Carolina. Forced air circulation of at least ten (10) cubic feet per minute of fresh or purified air per inmate.

#### **2018 - 20 SMOKING**

Written policy and procedure govern the smoking practices within the facility. In all instances, the facilities policy and procedure must comply with the South Carolina Clean Indoor Air Act of 1990.

#### **2018 - 21 MULTIPURPOSE ROOM**

There is at least one multipurpose room of sufficient size available for inmate activities such as religious services, education programs, or contact visiting.

#### **2018 - 22 VISITING AREAS**

Adequate space for visiting is separate from the inmate housing area. Space to permit appropriate screening and searching of both inmates and visitors is provided. Space should be provided for the storage of items which are not allowed into the visiting area. Video visitation may be used as an alternative or supplement to other means of non-contact visitation.

#### **2018 - 23 SECURITY EQUIPMENT STORAGE**

Firearms, chemical munitions, and related security items are stored in a secure but readily accessible depository outside inmate housing and activity areas.

#### **2018 - 24 HEALTH CARE FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT**

For health care delivered in the facility, adequate space, equipment, supplies, and materials are provided as determined by the health authority. The type of space and equipment/treatment room will depend on the level of health care provided in the facility and the capabilities and desires of the health providers. In all facilities, space should be provided where the inmate can be examined and treated in private.

#### **2018 - 25 CLOTHING AND SUPPLIES**

Space is provided in the facility to store and issue clothing, bedding, cleaning supplies, and other items required for daily operations. General guidelines which may be useful for planning are: two (2) cubic feet per inmate for personal clothing; one (1) cubic foot per

inmate for personal property; two (2) cubic feet per inmate for institutional clothing and bedding; and five and one-fourth (5 1/4) cubic feet per mattress times twenty-five (25%) percent of the facility's rated capacity. This storage room should be well ventilated.

#### **2018 - 26 TELEPHONES**

Telephones are available for inmate use to provide the phone calls required by case law. A facility may choose to operate an inmate telephone system in addition to the provision of the required phone calls for an inmate to maintain contact with his/her family. If a facility chooses to operate an inmate telephone system, the inmate telephone system should permit reasonable and equitable access for inmates and permit a reasonable amount of privacy.

#### **2018 - 27 CANTEEN / COMMISSARY**

A facility may choose to operate a canteen/commissary or make provisions for the operation of a canteen/commissary. Under either circumstance, if a facility has a canteen/commissary, adequate space shall be provided to operate.

#### **2018 - 28 FOOD PREPARATION AREA**

The food preparation area includes adequate space for food preparation based on population size, type of food preparation, and methods of meal service.

Discussion:

Plans for preparation and food service areas shall be submitted to the South Carolina Department of Agriculture for review and approval prior to construction.

#### **2018 - 29 DINING**

Space is sufficient to serve all inmates in four or fewer shifts per meal while giving each inmate the opportunity to have at least twenty (20) minutes of dining time for each meal. Dayrooms may also be used for dining space when meals are not served to each cell and/or when it is not appropriate to provide separate dining facilities.

#### **2018 - 30 FOOD STORAGE**

There are sanitary, temperature-controlled facilities sufficient for the storage of all foods at the facility. A facility should size the storage based on the requirements to store a minimum of seventy-two (72) hours of food stock for the rated capacity of the facility.

#### **2018 - 31 SANITATION AND HYGIENE - FOOD SERVICE**

Toilet and wash basin facilities are available to food service personnel and inmates in the vicinity of the food preparation area.

## **2018 - 32 MAINTENANCE**

All portions of existing buildings, both interior and exterior, are maintained in such manner that structural strength, stability, sanitation, indoor air quality, and safety of life and property are free from fire and other hazards. Repairs and upkeep are provided to ensure public safety, health, and general welfare. The building structural system is maintained structurally sound with no evidence of deterioration, and capable of supporting the load of normal use. All exterior walls are free of holes, breaks, loose or rotting boards or timbers, and any other conditions which might admit rain or dampness to the interior portions of the walls or to the occupied spaces of the building. All siding materials are kept in repair. Roofs are structurally sound and maintained in a safe manner and have no defects which might admit rain or cause dampness in the walls or interior portion of the building.

## **2018 - 33 STAFF / INMATE INTERACTION IN DIRECT SUPERVISION FACILITES**

The physical plant design in direct supervision facilities shall facilitate continuous personal contact and interaction between staff and inmates in the general population housing units. Separation of supervising staff from inmates reduces interpersonal relationships and staff awareness of conditions in the housing unit. Staff effectiveness is limited if the only staff available are isolated in control centers as observers or technicians in charge of electronic management systems.

### **2019 HOUSING (Revised January 2026)**

Unless otherwise noted this standard applies to all facilities planned, approved, and constructed after July 1, 2025. Housing Standards prior to July 1, 2025, can be found in the appendices of the Standards. These standards can only be applied to facilities planned, approved, and constructed after July 1, 2025, as noted in section 2012 of the Minimum Standards.

## **2019 - 1 JAIL NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

A Facility should, as the first part of the planning for the construction of, addition to, or major renovation to an existing facility, have a jail needs assessment completed. The Jail needs assessment should be completed by a company that provides consultant services with qualified expert(s) and experience in the corrections field and sufficient experience conducting jail needs assessments to successfully complete the assessment. The final goal of the jail needs assessment is to provide the facility with a data-based report that justifies and explains both the current and future projected needs of the facility and provides projected bed space requirements to meet the different classification and custody types of inmates in order to allow the facility to classify and separate inmates according to the standards and recognized best practices. The jail needs assessment should consist of the following areas of evaluation:

1. Conduct a Current Facility Evaluation