




WORK ACTIVITY RISK ASSESSMENT RECORD SHEET				
Area / Department: Human Resources		District / Section: Learning & Development		
Unit / Sub Section: Personal Safety Training		Location: Patrol Officers/Training/PIC's		
Description: The reasoning for and safe use and application of spit hoods for detained persons				
Other Relevant Information: Spit Hood Lesson Plan V0.2, July 2013, NPIA Accredited ACPO Personal Safety Manual 2011				
Date Completed: 21 st May 2015		Review Date: 21 st May 2015		
REF NO.	HAZARD, WHO MIGHT BE HARMED & HOW	CONTROL MEASURES IN PLACE	RISK (H-M-L)	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
1.	<p>Hazard - Spitting detainee and potential for cross infection.</p> <p>Police Officers and Staff through contact with saliva and any inherent disease.</p>	<p>Spit hoods to be applied for the following reasons to protect Police Officers and staff from contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject is spitting Threatening to spit, Honest held belief they will spit if the opportunity arises, Contagious Infection (whereby honest held belief is they will try to infect staff by spitting) 	L	Trained Police Officers or Staff
2.	<p>Hazard - Inappropriate procurement and selection of spit hoods</p> <p>Detainee as a result of a potential for a reduced ability to monitor welfare leading to possible death</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only translucent type spit hoods to be used within Norfolk & Suffolk Constabularies. These are pictured below and identified within the ACPO Personal Safety Manual. <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>	L	PST and Procurement

		<p>Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple to use. • Lightweight mesh and elastic base. • Fits around neck loosely. • Clear air passage maintained • Difficult for restrained subject to remove. • Disposable • Compact. • Inexpensive. • Does NOT affect hearing, breathing or vision. • Can be used on subject standing, sitting or prone. 		
3.	<p>Hazard - Inappropriate use of the spit hood</p> <p>Detainee as a result of inappropriate conditions of use which may lead to choking or even death.</p>	<p>Spit hoods shall not be considered for use when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The detainee is bleeding from the mouth or nose • If the detainee is vomiting or has been vomiting • The detainee is having difficulty breathing • As a punishment <p>Spit hoods must be replaced if they become wet from bodily or other fluids</p> <p>Use of spit hoods must be recorded and accounted for as such on a use of force form.</p>	L	Trained Police Officers or Staff
4.	<p>Hazard – Inappropriate application of spit hoods to the detainee</p> <p>Detainee as a result of improper fitting of the spit hood leading to injury or even death</p>	<p>Detainee to be secured with restraints (ERB, Fast Straps, handcuffs) prior to application of the spit hood to prevent falling</p> <p>If subject is standing or sitting the torso should be inclined forwards to allow application and avoid officer's face being in the line of the subject's sight.</p> <p>Consider removing detainees spectacles if present before use</p> <p>Hood is placed over subjects head. Ensure elastic banding does not interfere with subject's nose or eyes.</p> <p>If hood is not correctly secured it may rise over the face.</p> <p>Ensure breathing is not restricted. (Monitor and reassure detainee their breathing should not be affected).</p> <p>Check hood is not causing any undue pressure around the</p>	L	Trained Police Officers or Staff

		<p>subject's neck that would inhibit breathing</p> <p>All officers who deploy the use of spit hoods shall be trained by a Personal Safety Training instructor in their safe application and use. Training is in accordance with the designed lesson plan Spit Hoods Training will be recorded and records retained by the learning and development department.</p> <p>Annual refresher training provided as part of Personal Safety Training continued certification</p>		Line Managers (identify), Personal Safety Trainers (Train), Learning and Development (Record)
5.	<p>Inadequate supervision of the detainee wearing a spit hood</p> <p>Detainee could choke on bodily fluids during use leading to potential death</p>	<p>Supervision of those wearing spit hoods should be constant while the spit hood is on and performed by the designated safety officer.</p> <p>Spit hood to be removed if subject starts to vomit, bleed from the nose or mouth or experience any difficulty that may threaten safety or life.</p>	L	Trained Police Officers or Staff
6.	<p>Inappropriate disposal of spit hood post use</p> <p>Waste Regulatory breach leading to organisational fine</p>	<p>Users are trained by Personal Safety Training Instructors that spit hoods are a single use item and must be disposed of as a bio-hazard after use.</p>	L	Trained Police Officers or Staff
7.	<p>Risk/Harm caused by public perception</p> <p>"Statement to be made"</p>	<p>Officers/Staff to audibly warn detained person that a spit hood is going to applied to the words of: "I am requesting you to stop spitting, To protect myself and others I am placing this spit hood over your head"</p>	L	Trained Police Officers or Staff
8.	<p>Maintain dignity of detained person</p>	<p>Always maintain the dignity of the subject wearing the hood ensuring that it is only in place for as long as is necessary</p>	L	Trained Police Officers or Staff
9.	<p>Environmental Factors</p>	<p>Never allow Spit Hood to become soaked i.e. inclement weather.</p>		

Authorised Assessor

Name and Role:

(Section 40 Exemption) (Personal Safety Trainer)

Date: 21/05/2015

Authorised Head

Name and Role:

(Section 40 Exemption) (Training Manager, Learning & Development)

(Section 40 Exemption) (QA Supervisor, Learning & Development)

Date: 21/05/2015

Authorised Health and Safety

Name and Role:

(Section 40 Exemption) (T/Occupational Health, Safety & Wellbeing Manager)

Date: 21/02/2014

The following matrix is used to calculate the Residual Risk once Control Measures are already in place. Once calculated, put outcome (H-M-L) into the Risk column above.

CRITERIA FOR CALCULATING THE RESIDUAL RISK		LIKELIHOOD of HARM		
		HIGH Very likely or near certain that harm will occur	MEDIUM Likely or possible	LOW Unlikely or seldom occurs
SEVERITY of INJURY	HIGH Death, major injury or serious illness, hospitalised	HIGH	HIGH	MEDIUM
	MEDIUM Serious injury or ill health resulting in 7 days or more absence	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
	LOW Minor injuries needing only basic first aid	MEDIUM	LOW	LOW