



Ministerie van Justitie en Veiligheid

# Official Instruction

Officiële Instructie voor  
Wetshandhavingsinstanties  
(Rules of Engagement)



This instruction regulates the cooperation, authority, and rules of engagement (RoE) for all law enforcement agencies within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. It is legally binding for all participating services and all of their subunits, including specialized units

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## TITLE I: General Information

### Article I: Definitions

1. The **law enforcement agencies** will refer to the collective of the *Koninklijke Marechaussee*, *NLMARSOF*, *Coast Guard* and the *Korps Nationale Politie*.
2. The **Dutch Armed Forces** will refer to the collective of the branches forming the *Ministerie van Defensie* and *Koninklijke Marechaussee*.
3. **Close Protection Units** will refer to the collective of the *Close Protection Team of the Brigade Speciale Beveiligingsopdrachten* and the *Dienst Koninklijke en Diplomatieke Beveiliging*.
4. **Arrest Teams** will refer to the collective of the *Arrest Team of the Brigade Speciale Beveiligingsopdrachten*, the *Arrest Team of the Korps Nationale Politie*, *NLMARSOF*, and the *Dienst Speciale Interventies*.
5. **Object Protection Units** will refer to the collective of the *Hoog Risico Beveiliging of the Koninklijke Marechaussee*, the *Gewapende Beveiliging Burgerluchtvaart of the Koninklijke Marechaussee*, and the *Bewakingseenheid of the Korps Nationale Politie*.
6. **Specialized Units** will collectively include the *Close Protection Units*, *Arrest Teams*, and *Object Protection Units*.
7. **VIPs** will refer to the collective of *Members of the House of Oranje-Nassau*, *Members of the Cabinet*, *Foreign Diplomats*, as well as *leaders and individuals assigned by the Close Protection Units*.



## TITLE II: Tasks and Regulations

### Article II: Arrest

1. **Authority to Arrest:** It is hereby established that the law enforcement agencies, such as the *Korps Nationale Politie, Coast Guard, NLMARSOF* and the *Koninklijke Marechaussee* have the authority to arrest civilians on the grounds that they have or are suspected of breaking the law.
  - a. The authority to arrest and its respective scope for each law enforcement agency is defined within their given tasks.
  - b. The right to arrest members of the Dutch Armed Forces (on-duty personnel) is exclusive to the *Koninklijke Marechaussee* while they are in active service. This right applies only when the individuals involved are actually on-duty military members and within the legal framework.
    - i. In exceptional circumstances, where no members of the *Koninklijke Marechaussee* are present or willing to act, and there is an urgent need to arrest an individual from the Dutch Armed Forces in order to maintain law and order, the right to carry out the arrest may be transferred to another law enforcement agency. This is only applicable when immediate action is required to safeguard public safety.

### Article III: Patrol

1. It is hereby established that the primary law enforcement agencies in Den Haag and the Antilles will be the *Korps Nationale Politie*, with support in their duties from the *Koninklijke Marechaussee* and *Coast Guard*.
2. It is hereby established that the authority to enforce laws and patrol any body of water is reserved exclusively for the *Koninklijke Marechaussee, Coast Guard* and the *Royal Netherlands Navy*.
  - a. An exception to this article applies in situations where neither members of the *Koninklijke Marechaussee, Coast Guard* nor the *Royal Netherlands Navy* are available, but there is an immediate threat to public safety on a body of water.
  - b. An exception to this article applies in situations where neither members of the *Koninklijke Marechaussee, Coast Guard*, nor the *Royal Netherlands Navy* are available, but a member of a law enforcement agency is in need of rescue at sea.
  - c. An exception to this article applies in situations where a member of the *Korps Nationale Politie* is transporting themselves or colleagues across a body of water, and an event occurs where assistance is normally expected of a law enforcement officer.
  - d. Excluded are ornamental pools, lakes or fountains, such as the Hofvijver.
3. It is hereby established that law enforcement agencies, except for the *Coast Guard*, including their specialized units, are permitted to patrol the city and detain citizens suspected of violating the law. They are also authorized to establish and man checkpoints.
  - a. It is hereby established that the Object Protection Units are confined to the areas they are assigned to protect and may not engage in pursuits or patrols unless explicitly requested by the law enforcement agencies.



- b. It is hereby established that the Arrest Teams may only engage in pursuits or patrols if allowed by their unit regulations.
  - c. It is hereby established that the Close Protection Units are restricted to the areas surrounding the VIPs they are assigned to protect and may not engage in pursuits or patrols.
  - d. The *Coast Guard* shall be authorized to continue pursuit of a suspect transitioning from water to land, provided that no other competent law enforcement authority is available to assume jurisdiction.
4. It is hereby established that the *Koninklijke Marechaussee* may not enforce traffic laws unless assistance has been requested by the *Korps Nationale Politie*.
- a. An exception to this article applies in situations where no members of the *Korps Nationale Politie* are present, but it is necessary to arrest an individual violating traffic laws.
  - b. An exception to this article applies in situations where members of the *Koninklijke Marechaussee* catch an individual in the act of breaking the law.
  - c. An exception to this article applies in situations where members of the Dutch Armed Forces are observed breaking traffic laws.

#### **Article IV: Deployment Guidelines**

- 1. Specialized units shall only be deployed when absolutely necessary, and their use shall be kept to a minimum.
- 2. Close Protection Units are to be activated exclusively when a VIP is present in-game requiring security, or during events where the presence of such individuals is anticipated.
- 3. The deployment of Object Protection Units will follow internal regulatory procedures as defined by the respective services.
- 4. Arrest Teams are to be deployed solely in scenarios that demand the use of enhanced weaponry, require building entry through breaching methods, or involve a persistent and significant threat to a location.
- 5. Deployments for training or instructional activities are exempt from the limitations in points 1–4 regarding necessity, purpose, and activation conditions
- 6. Exceptions to the above may be granted by the command of a specialized unit, the *Koninklijke Marechaussee*, or the *Korps Nationale Politie*, provided there is agreement from unit leadership and authorization from the appropriate ministerial authorities, in accordance with internal policy.



## Article V: Breaching order

1. Law enforcement agencies operating within *Den Haag* and *The Antilles* are required to adhere to the standardized breaching hierarchy when preparing to enter a building. The designated order of entry is as follows:
  - a. *Arrest Teams* (DSI, AT, NLMARSOF)
  - b. *Object Protection Units* (HRB, BE, GBB)
  - c. *Koninklijke Marechaussee & Korps Nationale Politie*
    - i. Breaching operations are typically joint actions between KMar and KNP unless operational circumstances require otherwise;
      1. the suspect inside is DAF
      2. regional operations. KMar will go first in Den Haag.



### TITLE III: Weapons

#### Article VI: Small arms

1. Members of law enforcement agencies are authorized to use firearms only when strictly necessary and proportionate to the threat. Lethal force is a last resort and must always be justified by a direct and immediate danger to human life or serious bodily harm.
  - a. Members of the *Koninklijke Marechaussee* and *Coast Guard* will adhere to this document and the Politiewet when conducting the law enforcement task(s). When conducting task(s) for the armed forces, they will use the department of armed forces rules of engagement.
2. Firearms may only be used under the following conditions:
  - a. Self-defense or defense of others against an imminent threat of death or serious injury.
    - i. A suspect is actively using or preparing to use a category C weapon or equivalent prohibited item.
    - ii. A person that has below 50% health and is actively being attacked;
      1. A person is swinging their category B weapon;
      2. or a person is holding their category B weapon and actively walking towards someone.
      3. A person is using, or has used and is holding an item that can damage you or others.
  - b. To arrest or prevent the escape of a person who is armed and presents an imminent lethal threat.
    - i. The suspect has a category C weapon or equivalent prohibited item.
    - ii. The suspect is ready or intends to use that weapon to harm someone.
  - c. To apprehend a suspect fleeing lawful custody or evading arrest for a serious crime:
    - i. That significantly endangers physical integrity or personal privacy, or;
    - ii. That presents or may present a substantial threat to public safety.
  - d. To respond to serious civil disorder or rebellion, only under direct orders from a competent authority and while under the command of an authorized officer, and in accordance with the same requirements for imminent lethal threat and proportionality outlined in this article.
  - e. During authorized training or educational exercises.
  - f. Merely holding a weapon without imminent threat does not justify lethal force. (e.g. someone is at distance holding a weapon not aiming it at another person or shooting it, aiming defined as a gun pointed at someone. In these cases a taser should be used, except for situations described in article VI.2.)
3. A warning must be given before using a service weapon, if the situation allows it.. This warning may include:
  - a. A verbal warning and/or;
  - b. A warning shot.
    - i. A warning shot must be fired in a controlled direction where there is no threat of harming someone.
4. Officers stationed on watercraft (e.g., FRISC, RHIB) may return fire if their vessel is in danger of being rammed or disabled, and such action would endanger life.



5. Officers may engage a vehicle or vessel if it poses a direct lethal threat.
6. Officers must exercise judgment and restraint, ensuring every use of force is in line with necessity, legality, and proportionality.
  - a. Each use of force may be subject to review by an Internal Affairs Committee, which is authorized to assess whether the actions taken were justified and in accordance with established rules of engagement.

## **Article VII: Tasers**

1. The Taser is classified as a less-lethal tool intended for the temporary incapacitation of individuals through electric shock. While it is designed to reduce the need for more severe force, its use must remain justified, proportional, and aligned with operational standards. The usage of the taser is defined below:
  - a. To arrest or apprehend an individual who may reasonably be presumed to be armed and prepared to use a weapon against others.
  - b. To detain a suspect actively evading arrest, detention, or any other lawful custody.
  - c. As a defensive measure or to control a person displaying aggressive or violent behavior, where lesser means of force would be insufficient or unsafe.
2. A taser may be used as a way to give an official warning.
  - a. The taser shot does not have to land for it to count.
  - b. The use of force demonstrated by incapacitating someone for a warning must be justified with respect to the situation and circumstance(s) encountered by the officer.
3. Officers must exercise judgment and restraint, ensuring every use of force is in line with necessity, legality, and proportionality.
  - a. Each use of force may be subject to review by an Internal Affairs Committee, which is authorized to assess whether the actions taken were justified and in accordance with established rules of engagement.

## **Article VIII: Baton**

1. The baton is recognized as a non-lethal tool intended for immobilization at close range. Although categorized as less-lethal, it can inflict considerable damage (approximately 20 HP per impact) and may unintentionally result in the death of a suspect if misused. As such, its application requires discretion, precision, and adherence to necessity.
2. The baton may be utilized in the following scenarios:
  - a. To subdue a fleeing or potentially dangerous suspect at close range, particularly where other tools are impractical.
  - b. To maintain distance between individuals and law enforcement officers at a crime scene or any location where controlled access is required.
  - c. To apprehend individuals reasonably believed to be armed and prepared to use a weapon.
  - d. To detain persons actively evading lawful arrest, detention, or custody.
  - e. To issue a physical warning or gain compliance by equipping or striking once, provided the action is clearly justified and not intended as punishment.
3. A baton swing may be used as a way to give an official warning.
  - a. The baton does not have to hit for the official warning to count.



- b. The use of force demonstrated by immobilizing someone for a warning must be justified with respect to the situation and circumstance(s) encountered by the officer.
4. Officers must exercise judgment and restraint, ensuring every use of force is in line with necessity, legality, and proportionality.
  - a. Each use of force may be subject to review by an Internal Affairs Committee, which is authorized to assess whether the actions taken were justified and in accordance with established rules of engagement.

### **Article IX: Mounted Weaponry**

1. Mounted weaponry is governed by the *Ministerie van Defensie* Rules of Engagement (DAF RoE) when used for law enforcement tasks. Law Enforcement RoE applies only to handheld firearms.

### **Article X: Teargas**

1. Teargas may only be used as a means to rapidly disperse a crowd in situations where public order cannot otherwise be restored.
  - a. It may be deployed solely under the authorization and direct order of a designated command member, and only in the following circumstances:
    - i. Maintaining control in challenging situations to ensure the safety of officers and civilians.
    - ii. Restoring order while minimizing harm to persons and property.
    - iii. Facilitating a charge when necessary to regain control of the situation.
  - b. Teargas can cause injury and, in rare cases, death. Its use must therefore be strictly proportionate to the threat and carried out with due regard for minimizing harm.



TITLE IV: Revision History

No.	Date of Issue	Author(s)	Subject of Change
1	23/08/2025	Bergschoenen	Document
2	24/09/2025	Bergschoenen	Added NLMARSOF to Law Enforcement definition.