

Sub-Part 8101 - Administration

Chapter 00003 – Mississippi Department of Transportation Weapons Policy

Purpose

100 The purpose of this rule is to establish the Mississippi Department of Transportation policy concerning weapons in facilities and sensitive areas.

Definitions

200 "Department" means the Mississippi Department of Transportation.

210 "Facility" means the MDOT Headquarters Office, Laboratory, Main Shop Complex, District Offices, District Laboratories, Project Offices, Weight Scales, and Right-of-Way Field Offices.

220 "Sensitive Areas" means any MDOT Facility as well as any MDOT Construction Site.

300 The Mississippi Transportation Commission, based upon recommendations from the Executive Director and the staff, finds as follows:

1. That due to the storage of volatile chemicals at MDOT Shops, Maintenance Offices, and District Shops, these are sensitive areas, and that the carrying of weapons by employees or visitors into these facilities should be prohibited.
2. That due to the fact that weapons have been displayed in a threatening manner in presence of MDOT employees and the continually emotionally charged and contentious nature of the right-of-way acquisition process, the permitting process, and the close proximity of MDOT Personnel to the general public, for the safety of employees and visitors alike, the MDOT Headquarters Office, District Offices, District Laboratories, Project Offices, Weight Scales and Right-of-Way Field Offices are declared to be sensitive areas, and carrying of weapons in those facilities by visitors and employees alike is prohibited.
3. That MDOT Construction sites are often used for storing volatile materials and are also sometimes the site of confrontation with members of the general public and are therefore declared to be sensitive areas, and the carrying of weapons in these locations by Contractors, sub-contractors, their employees, visitors and by MDOT personnel is prohibited.

310 Nothing herein shall prevent visitors, employees, contractors, sub-contractors or their employees from possessing a weapon in their locked personal vehicle parked in a designated parking area on any of the above locations.

400 Now, in accordance with the above findings, for the protection of both the public and the employees it is ordered as follows:

1. The Executive Director shall have the Facility and Records Management (FRM) post written notices, clearly readable, to be placed at all MDOT buildings and work sites listed above that the “carrying” of a weapon by visitors or employees is prohibited by persons on or in such places.
2. The Executive Director shall have the Construction Division develop specifications to prohibit the possession of firearms by visitors, MDOT Employees, contractors/subcontractors, and/or their employees on MDOT jobsites.