

A-12 ARCHITECTURE – SPECIAL OBSERVATION CELLS

1. SCOPE

This section outlines performance criteria for special observation cells for Medium, Maximum and multi-level Institutions in accordance with CD 843¹.

2. RELATED SECTIONS

2.1 This section should be read in conjunction with the following TCD sections as applicable:

- A-5 – Doors and Frames
- A-7 – Finishes and Modesty Screens
- A-11 – Inmate Cells
- M-3 – Fire Protection Requirements

3. PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

The categories for special observation cells and conditions of use are listed in Cases 1 and 2 below. Furniture, fixtures, fittings and finishes shall be based on the needs of each of the cases as follows:

Case 1 – Mental Health Monitoring

This may be met either by the use of a regular cell with standard furniture and fixtures, or, by placing an inmate in the Health Care Unit's inpatient room. In the event that an inmate has been assessed as requiring Pinel restraints, a Health care inpatient room shall be used by converting a hospital bed for this purpose. This is accomplished by anchoring the bed to the floor so that it is immovable. The bed and floor provisions are in place to allow for a rapid conversion. Observation may be carried out by:

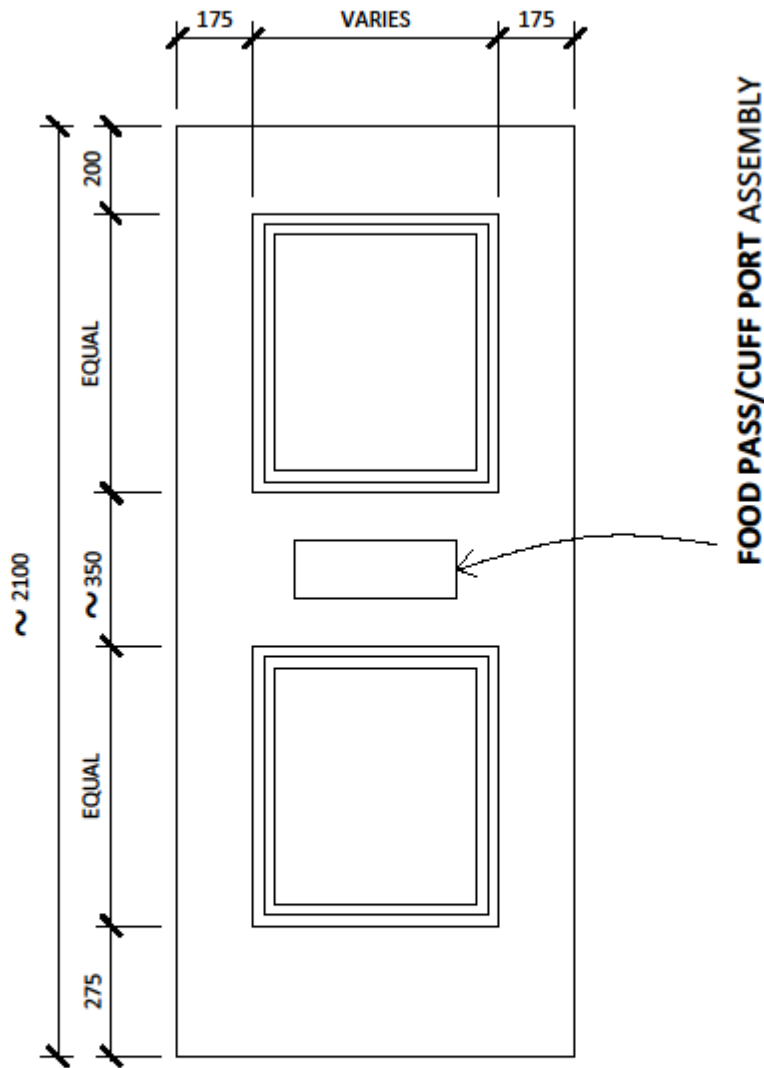
- a) Frequent viewing through standard cell door light by an officer, **or**
- b) Frequent viewing by a nurse in the Health care unit through a half light of a hospital door. This room will also be equipped with a CCTV monitored in the Nursing station.

Case 2 - High Watch

This is a cell equipped to reduce the risk of self-harm and located in the Segregation Unit which is staffed at all times. Observation of the cell occupant is continuous via glazed panels in the cell door. Because this cell may at times be used to house segregated inmates, the glazing must be highly resistant to prevent surreptitious or sustained physical attack. See Chapter A-4 for Bar-less Detention Window and Plate A-12-1. Technical requirements for this cell are as follows:

- Door Glazing shall be laminated polycarbonate 12.7mm thick comprising 3 layers. Conforming product is Lexguard MPC 500 or equivalent. The glazing shall have an engagement of 25mm and be affixed using 9.6mm screws starting 50mm from each corner spaced at 200 mm or less on centre.
- Special observation cells shall conform to the prescriptions stated in section A-11 Inmate Cells and furnished as per a segregation cell.
- Cell shall be capable of being also monitored by CCTV from the Segregation control post.

¹ Commissioner's Directive #843 – Prevention, Management and Response to Suicide and Self-Injuries, 2009-06-03



**PLATE A-12-1 - OBSERVATION CELL DOOR
EXAMPLE 1 - STYLE A - TWO HALF LIGHTS**

**A DETENTION STYLE DOOR WITH
SPECIAL OBSERVATION WINDOWS**