

50.5 Informants

OPERATIONS

STANDARD 50.5 **The agency has a written directive that establishes procedures for the use of informants.**

Commentary: The use of confidential informants is a sensitive, though often important part of many investigations. The procedures that are set by the agency must ensure adequate safeguards regarding the reliability, confidentiality, and security of information. Procedures are also needed regarding the handling of informants of the opposite sex and steps to take that will avoid putting either agency personnel or the informant in a compromising position.

Compliance Verification Strategies

Assessors may seek to verify agency compliance with this standard by using one or more of the strategies listed below. There may be other strategies identified by the agency which could also be acceptable.

1. A copy of the written directive is available for review.
2. Agency records involving the use of informants are available for review.
3. Interview(s) with agency personnel who use, or have used, informants to verify their understanding of and compliance with the directive.