

2.7 Responsibility and Authority - CRITICAL STANDARD

ADMINISTRATION

STANDARD 2.7 The agency has a written directive requiring responsibility be accompanied by commensurate authority. The directive shall include provisions for:

- A. Each employee being accountable for the use of delegated authority;**
- B. Supervisory personnel being accountable for the performance of employees under their immediate control;**
- C. All sworn personnel being required to obey any lawful order of a superior transmitted by any duly authorized agent of that superior, regardless of rank involved, and;**
- D. Procedures to be followed when a conflicting order or directive is received including when to notify command officers of conflicting orders.**

Commentary: The intent of this standard is to establish guidelines for the delegation of authority, and provide open communication among ranks without compromising emergency operations.

At every level within the agency, personnel should be given the authority to make decisions necessary for the effective execution of their responsibilities. Each officer is responsible for acts and omissions while on duty and must be accountable for this authority. In addition, having a procedure on how to handle conflicting orders will provide personnel with the appropriate guidance in situations where immediate obedience may be necessary in order to protect life or protect the welfare of the public.

Compliance Verification Strategies

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

1. A copy of the written directive is available for review.
2. Interview(s) with agency personnel to verify their understanding of and compliance with this standard.