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## DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF REGULATIONS ON THE USE OF RUBBER BATONS BY POLICE OFFICERS

*The author analyses the current regulatory framework of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine in terms of professional training of police officers. The author outlines the shortcomings in the formation of the full range of necessary knowledge and skills. The role of standards in the professional training of police officers, in particular in the use of such special means as a rubber baton, is considered.*

*The author offers to introduce specialised standards that should regulate the methodology of performing exercises with a rubber baton. Their introduction will help to increase the effectiveness of police officers' actions and improve their training system.*

**Keywords:** police officer, special means, plastic and rubber batons, regulations.

**Statement of the problem.** The rubber baton is one of the main special means used by police officers in the performance of their duties, in particular, to ensure public safety and order, as well as to ensure their own safety. Its effective use requires well-defined physical skills that must be practised in conditions close to real-life situations. The regulations will help to standardise training and ensure that police officers have the same level of professional skills.

Article 45 of the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police" provides a fairly broad list of special means, which requires not only knowledge of tactical and technical characteristics, purpose and personal safety measures, but also skills in their use and tactics [1].

The introduction of regulations on the use of rubber batons will contribute to standardisation and thus to the improvement of police training. The limited time for exercises reflects the real-life conditions when law enforcement officers must act quickly and effectively under stress and risk. Consideration of the time criterion in the standards will have a positive impact on the development of reaction time, coordination and the ability to make decisions quickly.

Standardising such exercises will increase the level of security for both police officers and citizens. A professionally trained police officer can quickly neutralise a threat and at the same time

minimise possible harm and human rights violations. Professional actions with the effective use of a rubber baton add confidence to a police officer and increase personal safety.

Thus, the introduction of regulations on the use of rubber batons will help to improve the quality of police training, their efficiency, and compliance with security and law enforcement standards.

In order to elaborate on the research topic, the Department of Tactical and Special Training of the Kharkiv National University of Internal Affairs conducted a survey among employees of practical units whose service in the National Police or internal affairs bodies of Ukraine has been more than one year. Almost 93 % of respondents stated that they had participated in ensuring public safety and order during mass events at least once. Of those surveyed, 64 % have participated in ensuring public safety and order during group violations of public order and mass disorder. According to these respondents, they would have been able to adapt more quickly to an extreme situation if they had been trained rubber baton techniques [2].

The introduction of regulations on the use of rubber batons in the police training system is aimed at increasing the level of combat capability and readiness for action, which has a positive impact on the personal safety of police officers in official and emergency situations. The standards make it possible to clearly define the range of skills and

abilities that a police officer should possess, set specific requirements for exercises and criteria for assessing their effectiveness. In this way, basic skills will be identified for further improvement. Standardising the requirements for police officers' professional skills and ordering the execution of exercises will ensure maximum training effectiveness.

At the same time, the introduction of standards will further improve the police training system, facilitating the introduction of new standards, techniques and new categories of special equipment.

The implementation of these standards will have a positive impact on the development of reflective reactions in the actions of police officers in extreme conditions, which will significantly increase the efficiency of their tasks and the level of their safety in critical situations.

The study identified four exercises for which standards, procedure and evaluation criteria were determined. The proposed set of simple exercises and their evaluation criteria provide a simplified system for monitoring the level of police officers' combat capability and readiness.

The developed standards detail the requirements for police officers in the professional training system and improve the process of assessing skills and abilities.

The following was determined in the course of developing the standards:

- the best way to perform each exercise, taking into account its importance for practical work and ensuring police safety;
- the most rational order of each exercise, which is set as a standard;
- time to meet each standard;
- time-based performance and evaluation criteria.

The applied experimental research method brought results which may not be of sufficient practical value in isolation, but the use of statistical analysis makes it possible to determine the criteria for the standards with mathematical precision. This confirms the relevance of the proposed standards, the expediency of their implementation, and their importance for the practical activities of the National Police units.

#### **Analysis of recent research and publications.**

The issue of the use of special means by police officers, in particular rubber batons, has received special attention. At different times, this issue has been studied by scholars from different fields:

pedagogical – V. Horiainov, M. Korolchuk, E. Levin, V. Lefterov, O. Fedorenko, H. Yavorska; psychological – O. Okhremenko, O. Timchenko, M. Chunosov, O. Skliar; legal – M. Anufriev, O. Bandurka, O. Dzhafarova, D. Denysiuk, S. Shatrava, O. Vlasenko, L. Kryvoruchko. The use of special equipment, in particular rubber and plastic batons, is covered in the following manuals: "Tactical and Special Training" (O. Komisarov, A. Sobakar, E. Sobol, O. Yunin et al.) [3]; "Tactical and Tactical Special Training of the National Police of Ukraine" (Ya. Bondarenko, O. Prokopenko, D. Serhiienko, V. Kushchenko) [4]; "Tactical and Special Training of the National Police Officers" (S. Albul, O. Torlo, Y. Yosypiv, V. Synenkyi et al.) [5]. Separately, the issue of using a rubber baton is covered by specialists of tactical and special training in the textbook "Defensive and Counterattack Actions with a Rubber (Plastic) Baton" (V. Didkovskiy, V. Bondarenko, N. Khudiakova et al.) [6]. These sources address the issues of legal support for the use of rubber or plastic batons, the mechanics of hitting, defence against them, as well as the methodology of physical training of a law enforcement officer to perform the relevant exercises. However, neither this manual nor any of the other sources studied the conceptual issues of using rubber or plastic batons in the performance of official duties, such as the conditions for wearing and operating personal protective equipment are not researched properly, police tactics in the presence of more than one offender etc.

Thus, nowadays the issue of the use of rubber and plastic batons has been considered somewhat superficially: important aspects and features have not been revealed, and the objective reality and peculiarities of service have not been taken into account.

The issue of introducing additional standards for tactical and specialised training, in particular on the use of rubber batons, has already been covered by the authors in scientific papers, but no comprehensive analysis and experimental research was carried out, nor were proposals for actual standards put forward [7].

**The purpose of the article** is to substantiate the need to develop regulations on the use of rubber batons by police officers during the performance of their tasks, and also to introduce these regulations into the regulatory framework of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine.

**Summary of the main material.** Regulations are established rules and standards that ensure order, safety and efficiency in various spheres of life and the economy. They regulate technical, legal and social aspects, creating a clear framework for achieving compliance with legal requirements, streamlining processes and reducing costs. In the technical sphere, regulations guarantee product safety, compatibility and compliance with environmental standards, while in the legal sphere they help protect citizens' rights and ensure predictability of decisions. Social standards help ensure equality and protect vulnerable groups.

In the professional training of police officers, standards are a key tool that defines the methodology for training and the use of special equipment, including rubber batons. The introduction of standardised approaches to training helps to minimise the risks of misuse of force, ensure the effectiveness of law enforcement actions and respect for human rights. This contributes to raising the professional level of police officers, their readiness to perform tasks and ensure public safety.

The relevance of developing regulations on the effective use of special equipment, in particular rubber batons, is due to their key role as a special tool in ensuring public safety and order, as well as personal safety of police officers. Standardisation of training will help to unify professional skills, develop reaction time and the ability to make decisions under stress. It will also increase the level of security for both police officers and citizens, minimising the risk of human rights violations. The introduction of clear standards will ensure that law enforcement officers are well-trained and effective in real-life situations.

Analysing the Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine "On Approval of the Regulation on the Organisation of Service Training of the National Police of Ukraine" of January 26, 2016 No. 50 and the provisions of the relevant instruction [8], it should be noted that tactical training of police officers is focused on the development and improvement of skills in the use of the main types of special means that the police have in service, as well as on compliance with the rules of their operation. However, this formulation seems too narrow, because does not reflect the full picture of the key areas of training, as well as the necessary knowledge and skills in working with various equipment, machinery and special means used by the police in their activities.

It should be noted that the regulatory framework of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine already contains similar documents aimed at developing physical endurance, strength and professional skills in working with equipment, technical means and other mechanisms through individual and group training exercises within units. For example, the Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of December 20, 2015 No. 1470 "On Approval of the Standards for Exercises to Prepare Privates and Commanders of the Civil Protection Service and Employees of the Operational and Rescue Service of Civil Protection of the SES of Ukraine for Performing Assigned Tasks" [9], the Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of October 13, 2014 No. 1067 "Instruction on the Organisation of Physical Training in the National Guard of Ukraine" [10] regulate similar issues in the context of service training of employees of the SES of Ukraine and the NGU. Thus, we conclude that the legal framework of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine contains examples of a systematic approach to personnel training that ensures the development of professional skills and improves the efficiency of performance of official tasks through appropriate training exercises and exercises.

In order to ensure public safety and order, the National Police of Ukraine needs to conduct regular training with its personnel.

In order to unify the skills of using a rubber baton, we propose to introduce specialised regulations into the legal framework of the MIA of Ukraine.

The following exercises were chosen for the experimental study

1. Putting the rubber baton in combat readiness.
2. Use of a rubber baton against one offender.
3. Use of a rubber baton against three offenders.
4. Determining the number of beats in a certain time.

*Performing exercise 1.* The police officer assumes a frontal stance, the baton is placed in the webbing. On the command "Get ready to fight!", the police officer takes a combat readiness position: legs spread in the same way as in the "interview", the right hand holds the baton by the handle, and the striking part of the baton is placed on the right shoulder, the left hand is bent into a fist and protects the face (Figure 1).



Figure 1 – Initial position

*Performing exercise 2.* The police officer is in a frontal stance at a distance of 3 m from the target, with the baton in the webbing. On the command "Move", the police officer quickly moves towards the target, takes out the baton from the webbing system, and hits the target three different times.

*Performing exercise 3.* The police officer is in a frontal stance at a distance of 3 m from the first target, with the baton in the webbing. The targets are arranged in a triangle at an equal distance from each other. On the command "Move", the police officer moves quickly to the target, takes out the

baton from the waist belt system, hits the target once, and then runs to the next target. The hits must not be repeated.

*Performing exercise 4.* The police officer is in a frontal stance opposite the target, with the baton in the webbing. On the command "Start", the police officer delivers the maximum possible number of hits within 20 seconds, and the hits can be repeated, but not more than one hit after two.

The experimental group included 10 cadets and 10 cadets – members of the scientific and practical club of the tactical special unit "SHCHIT" ("Shield"), who are undergoing intensive training. We took into account the data on the time and quality of the exercises (number of correct hits).

To process the results, the statistical method of central tendency was used and the following components were identified:

– arithmetic mean 
$$\bar{x} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i}{n};$$

– variance 
$$s^2 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - x_{cp})^2}{n - 1};$$

– standard deviation 
$$s = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (X - \bar{X})^2}{n}};$$

– average true value 
$$\hat{a} = a_{сб} + \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i}{n}.$$

The results are presented in Tables 1 and 2.

Based on the results obtained, we propose to introduce the following evaluation criteria (Tables 3, 4).

Table 1 – Results of the mathematical analysis of exercise time

Standard	Minimum value, s	Maximum value, s	Arithmetic mean, s	Standard deviation, s
1	1.23	3.02	2.08	0.78
2	3.26	6.24	4.20	0.72
3	3.16	10.49	<b>5.19</b>	1.82

Table 2 – Results of the mathematical analysis of the required number of hits during the exercises

Standard	Minimum impact value	Maximum impact value	Arithmetic mean	Standard deviation
2	0	3	2.25	1.04
3	0	3	2.35	<b>0.95</b>
4	0	31	15	11

Table 3 – Categorisation of assessment by time

Standard	"5"	"4"	"3"	"2"
1	1.30	2.00	<b>3.00</b>	4.00
2	3.30	4.00	5.00	6.00
3	3.30	5.00	7.00	9.00

Table 4 – Categorisation of the assessment by the number of hits

Standard	"5"	"4"	"3"	"2"
2	3	2	1	0
3	3	2	1	0
4	26	15	4	3

The calculation results were rounded, taking into account the probability of rounding errors not exceeding 10 %.

The evaluation should take into account not only the time of the exercise, but also the quality. Therefore, if the time is within the standard, but the number of hits does not meet the requirements, the score will be reduced by one point for each incorrect hit.

### Conclusions

The results of the study allow us to draw important conclusions about the necessity and expediency of introducing standards for the use of rubber batons into the police training system. The lack of clearly defined standards and methodologies for performing technical techniques with the use of special means creates a number of problems today, namely: uneven level of training of officers; risk of improper use of force and special means. The study has shown that standardisation of hitting techniques, evaluation of their effectiveness and establishment of clear criteria for successful performance not only increase the level of professional competence of law enforcement officers, but also contribute to ensuring law and

order, respect for human rights and minimisation of the risk of injury to both police officers and civilians. The proposed approaches take into account the physiological, technical and psychological features of rubber baton hits and adapt the training system to the real conditions of operational work.

The use of a rubber baton requires not only physical fitness, but also the ability to act in a balanced manner in stressful situations. Developing techniques that take these factors into account will help police officers develop not only physical but also emotional self-control skills.

The results also point to the need for further research in the use of special equipment, improvement of techniques for its application and introduction of new teaching methods. In particular, it is necessary to expand research on the optimal ratio of physical activity, psychological training and practical training.

Thus, the implementation of the proposed regulations will be an important step towards improving the police training system, increasing their effectiveness in performing their duties and strengthening the legal framework for ensuring the safety of citizens.



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## **РОЗРОБЛЕННЯ І ВПРОВАДЖЕННЯ НОРМАТИВІВ ІЗ ЗАСТОСУВАННЯ ГУМОВИХ КИЙКІВ ПОЛІЦЕЙСЬКИМИ**

*Здійснено аналіз чинної нормативно-правової бази Міністерства внутрішніх справ України в аспекті професійної підготовки поліцейських. Окреслено недоліки щодо формування повного спектра необхідних знань і навичок. Розглянуто роль нормативів у професійній підготовці поліцейських, зокрема у використанні такого спеціального засобу, як гумовий кийок.*

*Автори пропонують запровадити спеціалізовані стандарти, які чітко регламентують методику виконання вправ із гумовим кийком, що сприятиме уніфікації навичок поліцейських і підвищенню ефективності їхніх дій у стресових ситуаціях.*

*Запропоновано також упровадження спеціалізованих нормативів, які регламентують методику виконання вправ із гумовим кийком. Це позитивно впливатиме на підвищення ефективності дій поліцейських і вдосконалення системи їхнього навчання.*

*Сплановано і проведено експериментальне дослідження, яке полягало у виконанні чотирьох вправ курсантами з різним рівнем підготовки. Під час виконання вправ фіксувалися показники часу, точності та правильності завдання ударів. Результати виконання вправ оцінювалися за цими показниками. На основі отриманих результатів розроблено критерії оцінювання, які враховують швидкість реакції, кількість і правильність завдання ударів, а також загальну технічну підготовленість виконавців.*

*Дослідження продемонструвало, що стандартизація технік застосування гумового кийка сприятиме поліпшенню професійної підготовки, зниженню ризиків неправомірного застосування сили, забезпеченню дотримання прав людини, а також зменшенню травматизму.*

*Отже, впровадження спеціалізованих стандартів застосування гумових кийків є важливим кроком у вдосконалюванні професійної підготовки правоохоронців, що забезпечить підвищення рівня громадської безпеки, ефективності охорони правопорядку, а також відповідність сучасним вимогам до діяльності підрозділів поліції.*

**Ключові слова:** поліцейський, спеціальні засоби, пластикові та гумові кийки, стандарти.

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