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**CHAIRMAN'S  
NO. 16-2001**

**MEMORANDUM  
JUNE 26, 2001**

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**TO: SHERIFFS, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS, TRAINING COORDINATORS AND COMMISSIONERS OF CORRECTION,**

**RE: USE OF CHEMICAL AGENTS ADMINISTERED BY RIFLE (PEPPER BALLS)**

Please be advised that the Commission has received multiple inquiries regarding the acceptance of chemical agents administered by a rifle or other propelling device, commonly known as "pepper balls". Section 7063.5(a) of the Commission's minimum standards provides that any facility staff with the authority to either use, order the use of, or supervise the use of chemical agents must first successfully complete a chemical agents training program approved by the Commission. Additionally, section 7063.5(b) mandates that such a program "incorporate accepted practices in the use of chemical agents and shall be submitted to the commission for approval before delivery to facility staff."

The current lesson plan on which most jurisdictions train does not cover the use of such propelled pepper ball projectiles. Until such a training program has been approved by the Commission, your staff will have not been adequately trained in the use of chemical agents administered by rifle pursuant to section 7063.5 of the Commission's minimum standards, and any such use would constitute a violation thereof.

Should you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to contact either myself or the Commission's Office of Counsel.

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**Alan J. Croce, Chairman/Commissioner**