



Batons

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Introduction

Police have three approved batons:

- ASP baton (general issue)
- Side handled baton (SHB) (specialist / authorised user)
- Long baton (specialist / authorised user).

Purpose

This topic details:

- [when](#) the ASP baton, side handled baton or the long baton may be deployed
- [who](#) can be deployed with the side handled baton or the long baton
- [reporting](#) after use
- [training and certification](#) requirements.

Deployment with the ASP baton

The ASP baton is general issue and the primary baton in use by Police. The ASP baton should be carried as an appointment at all times. Any decision to use the ASP baton must be made in accordance with the [Tactical Options Framework](#), and ['Use of force'](#) policy.

Deployment with SHB or long baton

Consideration of the operational deployment of the SHB or long baton is an important escalation in New Zealand Police's use of force and consequently requires careful consideration before any decision to deploy.

Decisions must be in accordance with the Tactical Options Framework as well as the [Public Order Intervention Model](#). The SHB or long baton should only be used when it is believed that other more reasonable tactical options would be ineffective.

The SHB is provided primarily as a means of defence.

Who may be deployed with the SHB?

Policing Support Units and other Constabulary employees assembled and trained for public order policing activities may be deployed with the SHB, but only in specific operational circumstances, such as large scale and out of control parties, potentially violent protest activity, or during pre-planned operations such as New Years Eve policing. In all cases, deployment with the SHB can only occur when specific approval has been given pursuant to ['Approval required for deployment'](#) below.



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Only constables [trained and currently certified](#) in SHB may be issued with and deployed with the SHB.

District Commanders may authorise District Operations Managers to organise the training and certification of additional staff in SHB to meet any specific operational requirement.

Who may be deployed with the long baton?

The long baton may only be used by specifically trained Policing Support Unit squads in conjunction with the gladiator or enforcer shields, and only during 'hard' public order policing responses.

SHBs or long batons must not be routinely carried

The SHB or long baton must not be issued as a matter of course and must not be routinely carried.

Approval required for deployment

Deployment with the SHB or long baton can only be approved by the:

- District Shift Commander, or
- District Command Centre Coordinator, or
- Shift Commander – Communications Centre (Northern / Central / Southern)
- Operations Commander of a particular event.

Tactical Options reporting

A Tactical Options Report (TOR) must be submitted before the end of shift for any use (strike) of the ASP baton, SHB, or long baton against an offender or member of the public. See 'Reporting use of force/tactical options use' in the '[Use of force](#)' chapter.

Training and certification

SHB baton

All employees who may be issued with and deployed with the SHB must undergo basic operator training and annual certification training from SHB Instructors qualified by the Training Service Centre.

SHB certification is valid for 12 months.

Every fulltime Policing Support Unit should maintain a SHB Instructor component on the unit at all times.

SHB instructors must re-certify as SHB instructors every 2 years.

ASP baton

To deploy with and use the ASP baton employees must be PITT level 3 trained and certified.

Long baton

Training for use of the long baton will be conducted within Policing Support Units.

Storage of SHB and long batons

Full time PSU units must maintain a supply of SHB, long batons, and baton clips for their normal deployment activities.

District Operations Managers must also maintain a suitable supply of SHB and baton clips in a central location for contingency purposes, and for operational deployments.

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The controlled document can be found in the Police Instructions site which is accessible via the New Zealand Police Intranet.