

**Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training**

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**Subject: POST Identification Numbers to Replace Social Security Numbers**

At its April 2007 meeting, the Commission approved the recommendation to implement unique POST identification (POST ID) numbers to replace the POST database reliance on social security numbers (SSNs). To reduce the possibility of identify theft, POST will discontinue the use of SSNs as the key to all electronic records.

Although POST has implemented several security measures to protect all data, collecting social security numbers for identification is a serious concern to peace officers, dispatchers, reserves, and course instructors. Using the POST ID rather than an SSN will allow POST to improve its ability to protect law enforcement information.

The new POST identification number is a non-sequential, six-digit alpha-numeric identification string. In April 2007, POST assigned a POST ID to each peace officer, reserve, dispatcher, and records supervisor. *Agencies may determine their employees' POST ID numbers through the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) system.*

Beginning July 1, 2007, POST will accept the trainee's POST ID on the Course Roster, POST 2-111, in lieu of the SSN. Between July 1, 2007, and December 31, 2007, trainees in POST-certified courses may enter either their POST ID or their SSN on the roster forms. When the six-month transition phase ends, POST will accept only the POST ID on all roster forms. *After December 31, 2007, POST will no longer accept the SSN.*

Upon completion of the required rulemaking process, POST regulations will reflect the change from collecting social security numbers to the POST ID.

Please direct your questions about the new POST Identification Numbers to Bureau Chief Mitch Coppin, Computer Services Bureau, at (916) 227-4850 or [Mitch.Coppin@post.ca.gov](mailto:Mitch.Coppin@post.ca.gov).

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