



CALEA - National Accreditation for Police Agencies

CALEA stands for the **Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.** It was established in **1979** by major law enforcement leadership organizations to develop professional standards and provide an independent accreditation process for public safety agencies. CALEA is widely considered the **gold standard of public safety accreditation** in the United States.



What Does CALEA Accreditation Mean?

CALEA accreditation is a voluntary process through which a police department demonstrates compliance with nationally recognized best-practice standards covering areas such as:

- Use of force
- Policy and procedures
- Training
- Evidence management
- Internal affairs
- Communications
- Patrol operations
- Investigations
- Personnel management
- Technology governance and security

Accredited agencies undergo rigorous self-assessments, independent reviews, and periodic reaccreditation to ensure continued compliance.



Why Is Accreditation Important?

1. Enhances Public Trust

Accreditation demonstrates that an agency has been independently evaluated and meets recognized professional standards, helping build credibility with the community.

2. Reduces Liability and Risk

CALEA standards require documented policies, consistent training, and accountability measures, which can reduce operational risk and strengthen an agency's legal defensibility.

3. Improves Operational Effectiveness

The accreditation process often identifies gaps in policy, training, technology management, and operations, resulting in more efficient and consistent service delivery.

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INFORMATION**

Visit our website: <https://www.tdsynnex.com/na/us/td-synnex-public-sector/public-safety-resource-center/>

For additional information and questions, email: SLED@tdsynnex.com



4. Supports Modern Technology Governance

As agencies deploy technologies such as:

- Automated License Plate Readers
- Real-Time Crime Centers
- Body-worn cameras
- Drones
- AI-enabled analytics
- License Plate Readers

CALEA standards help ensure agencies have policies addressing privacy, data retention, access controls, audits, and oversight. This is one reason many agencies reference CALEA standards when implementing emerging technologies.

5. Professional Recognition

Accreditation serves as a visible indicator that an agency is committed to continuous improvement and professional excellence. Many municipal leaders, governing bodies, and insurance providers view accreditation favorably.



Why It Matters for Agencies Using License Plate Reading Technologies

For law enforcement agencies deploying automated license plate readers and other surveillance technologies, CALEA accreditation helps ensure:

- Written policies govern technology use.
- Access to collected data is controlled and audited.
- Data retention periods are established.
- Privacy considerations are documented.
- Personnel receive proper training.
- Community concerns are addressed through transparent governance.

These practices can help agencies balance crime-fighting effectiveness with privacy and civil liberties concerns.



Bottom Line

A CALEA-accredited police agency has demonstrated that it operates according to nationally recognized professional standards and is committed to accountability, transparency, risk management, and continuous improvement. For elected officials, community members, and technology vendors, accreditation is often viewed as a strong indicator of a well-managed and professionally run law enforcement organization



Why Accreditation Matters when Integrating and Using Technology

When police agencies deploy:

- Automated License Plate Readers
- Body-worn cameras
- Drones
- Real-Time Crime Centers
- AI analytics

CALEA helps ensure:

- Appropriate use policies exist
- Personnel are trained
- Data access is monitored
- Privacy concerns are addressed
- Technology deployments are auditable

This is particularly important as agencies face increased scrutiny over surveillance technologies and AI use.

