

HQBOR 10/13-P



U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

FEB 23 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Chief Patrol Agents  
All Directorate Chiefs

FROM: Raul L. Ortiz  
Chief  
U.S. Border Patrol

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Ortiz", written over the printed name and title.

SUBJECT: Update to Uniform and Grooming Standards Regarding Female Hair

The U.S. Border Patrol has and will continue to review our grooming standards, to balance the requests for change from our agents, and how it may impact the mission and future generations. Ponytails and braids are now authorized for female uniformed employees while in uniform except while wearing the Class A, Ceremonial Dress Uniform or Class H, Honor Guard Uniform. The following guidance will be applied when a female uniformed employee opts to wear single ponytail or single or double braid(s).

- Hair that extends past the collar must be neatly fastened or secured in either a bun, single ponytail, or single or double braid(s) down the middle of the back.
  - Multiple braids, twists, locks, or cornrows may come together into a bun, one or two braids, or a single ponytail.
  - Pigtails are not authorized (meaning no ponytails or braids extending off the sides of the head).
  - Bulk (bundle) of fastened hair must not exceed the width of the head nor extend past four inches from the scalp.
  - The length of the ponytail or braid must no longer than the bottom of the shoulder blades.
  - Hairstyle must not interfere with the use of headgear when required to be worn.
  - Hairstyles must be neat, professional, and maintain the appearance of natural hair colors.
- Ponytail and braid(s) are not authorized in Class A, Ceremonial Dress and Class H, Honor Guard Uniforms.
  - Females will maintain the current standard of a bun for loose hair that is longer than the bottom of the shirt collar while wearing Class A and Class H Uniforms.

Additional questions can be sent to Assistant Chief Jessica Sim, Training and Agent Support Division, U.S. Border Patrol Headquarters at [jessica.l.sim@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:jessica.l.sim@cbp.dhs.gov).

