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Re: Question 120220: Shackling convicts when outside cells.

In Swedish prisons, it is exceedingly rare that an inmate would be shackled within the prison. Swedish inmates spend some time outside of their cells but within the prison itself and are, as a rule, entirely unshackled during that time. The only time an inmate would be shackled when outside of their cell but still within the prison would be if the prisoner was acting out in a violent way. In those cases, an inmate will be shackled so as to uphold order and security within the prison. This is a measure that can be used if the inmate is not only in the immediate danger of hurting staff, visitors or other inmates but also to protect someone who is a potential danger to him or herself. When transporting clients, on the other hand, shackles are used as a matter of course outside of prison facilities. The responses given below are in the context of transporting a convict.

1. Factors to be considered when assessing security risks of convicts and the need of shackling during transports outside of prison are ;
  - The inmate has a long time remaining before his/her release.
  - Earlier misconduct such as misuse of prison leave or attempts to escape.
  - A recent history of substance or alcohol abuse
  - Misbehaviour in prison in the form of using illicit substances or alcohol
  - Unstable psychiatric situation, history of violence, signs of plans for escape
  - Lack of information about the transport conditions or the inmate him/herself.
2. There are no special factor to consider for prisoners serving life sentence. Such prisoners tend to fulfil many of the factors above. I e: A long time left to serve and a history of violence.
3. An assessment is carried out for each transport assignment and in the event that new information should arise during a transportation assignment.
4. Yes.