

GOVERNING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION

EXPLOSIVE DETECTION CANINES

The purpose of this test is to evaluate the ability of a trained canine team to detect and find explosives concealed in various locations. The General Rules and Definitions for Detector Dogs, stated earlier, will also govern testing unless specifically stated otherwise. All certifications are good through December 31st of the following year. (ie – if you certify on April 1st, your certification will not expire until December 31st of the following year.)

1. **TESTING:**

This test will be comprised of two parts: ODOR RECOGNITION (ORT) WITH SIX (6) ODORS AND OPERATIONAL TESTING WITH SIX (6) ODORS IN THREE VENUES. A maximum total score of 300 is possible, with certification (passing) at 210 points.

2. **JUDGES:**

The Chief Judge for this test must have a background in explosive detection, either as an explosive detection dog trainer, explosive detection dog handler, or has successfully completed the ATF evaluators course or the USPCA sponsored Advanced Explosive Canine Team & Evaluators Course. A minimum of three judges will be used for the operational phases of this test with the exception of the Odor Recognition Phase, which requires only one judge.

3. **ODORS:**

A. For certification purposes, it is recommended that at least one odor from each group be represented in the operational testing. Any explosive odor used beyond the list supplied below, must be agreed to by both Region participants and Chief Judge before the testing begins.

GROUP 1: TNT

Military Block TNT	Granular TNT
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GROUP 2: Chlorates/Nitrates (Powders)

Black Powder	Time Fuse	Safety Fuse	Fireworks
Potassium Chlorate	Pyrodex	Sodium Chlorate	Flash Powder
Ammonium Nitrate Prills		Smokeless Powder – single and/or double based	

GROUP 3: RDX/PETN (Military and Commercial)

C-3	FLEX-X	Pentolite	Semtex
C-4	Detasheet	Cast Boosters	Boosters
HMX	Sheet Explosives	Detonation Cords (minimum 100 ft for operational testing)	Comp B

GROUP 4: Dynamites (Military and Commercial)

Ammonium Based Emulsions	Nitroglycerin Based Military Slurries
Gels	Water Gels
KinePaks (Binaries) – Do not mix with liquid fuel for certification	

4. **PART ONE:** Odor Recognition Phase

A. Part one of this test is an ORT that will use eighteen (18) one-gallon metal paint cans, securely fastened to a 12-inch square piece of half (1/2) inch plywood. Each of the one-gallon cans will have a quart sized or smaller container or can inserted inside it. (The inside container or can must be uniform in all 18 one-gallon cans) The quart sized or smaller containers will have lids either with ten (10) quarter (1/4) inch sized holes, or with "ATF" style punched holes. The one-gallon sized cans will be open without lids. All one-gallon sized cans will be numbered by placing a number on the floor in front of the can with chalk, crayon or some other marking utensil. Within the

quart sized or smaller containers, there will be six (6) explosive compounds, six distractors and six empty cans in any order.

B. The weight of each explosive will be approximately three (3) ounces, with the exception of Detonation Cord and Time Fuse, which may be 12-24 inches in length. If either of these explosives are used, they must be cut into a minimum of four- inch pieces to allow odor to escape. *Safety warning: use plastic cutters that can be obtained at any hardware type store.*

C. Six of the quart cans must contain distractor items and must come from the below list. The other six quart cans or containers will be empty.

Rubber Bands	Crayons	Batteries
Duct Tape	Electrical Tape	Video Tape
Film	Dog Food	Chalk
Micro Fiber Pads	Glue	Part of a Rubber Glove
Aspirin	Vitamin C	Liquid Soap
Cheerios	Toothpaste	Piece of Paper

D. The ORT phase will have a thirty (30) minute MINIMUM set time for all explosives placed for this exercise.

E. The eighteen (18) one-gallon cans will be placed in a circle with a minimum 30 foot inside diameter, and each can a minimum three feet apart. Should a large number of teams participate, it shall be up to the Chief Judge to use more than one circle of cans.

F. A K-9 team will be allowed two revolutions of the circle, either inside or outside.

G. When a K-9 indicates on a can, the handler will tell a judge the cans number before the k-9 is rewarded. Any time a handler tells the judge a number, they are stating that they believe their K-9 has indicated to an explosive odor. If the K-9 is correct, the judge will say "reward your dog". If the K-9 has made a false indication, the judge will say "do not reward your dog".

H. During the ORT, the team must correctly identify the six explosive odors with no more than two false alerts. If the team has MORE than two false alerts, the team will be allowed one additional attempt to pass the ORT. The second attempt should take place after every other participant has completed the test. Should a second attempt result in failure, the team will be prohibited from advancing to the operational tests.

I. In order to certify, a K-9 team must complete the operational phase within 48 hours of passing the ORT phase.

5. **PART TWO:** General Guide for Operational Phase

A. The Operational testing involves three different search venues with two hides at each venue.

B. The soak time or set time for the target substances will be 30 minutes MINIMUM for all substances used.

C. The same six explosive compounds from the ORT will be used in the operational testing.

D. The explosive hides used will not be in air tight packaging. If the substance is in an airtight package, it will be opened before it is placed.

E. There will be no maximum weight of explosives. However, care should be taken not to use a large amount which would excessively contaminate the search venue.

F. A minimum of eight (8) ounces will be concealed for each of the six hides.

G. SCORING: For certification scoring, the hide will be considered a miss if the average score of all scoring judges is 17.5 points or less, out of 35 possible points. (response + alert + find). To certify, a team must locate five of the six hides in the operational phase and pass the ORT.

H. A false alert (indicated by the dog's alert and called by the handler) will be judged as a miss by judges. If a dog responds but it is not called by the handler, it will be judged against the dog as a distraction.

I. Judges will not indicate to the handlers the accuracy of the team's performance except on the score sheet during the operational phase testing.

J. If the explosives are intentionally disturbed or retrieved by the dog, the team will be disqualified from certification.

6. **OPERATIONAL TESTING: ROOMS**

A. The indoor search will consist of three rooms. Each room will be a minimum of 200 square feet. There will be a time limit of one and one half (1.5) minutes for every 100 square feet. Large rooms can (optional) be sectioned off with a makeshift or temporary barrier to reduce it to the 200 square foot minimum. The unused part of this room cannot be used as one of the three required searchable rooms. (i.e. A large classroom can be divided off to create a 200 ft search area, but the rest of the room cannot be used for the trial)

- B. The rooms must be furnished and can be kitchens, workshops, offices, schoolrooms or other rooms containing furnishings and/or equipment.
- C. There will be two hides contained within the three rooms. Only one hide in a room.
- D. For inside/room searches, no hide may be higher than 6 feet from the ground or floor.
- E. There will be a 2 minute warning given before the expiration of time. At the expiration of time, the handler will call his/her finds. The handler can elect to end search before time expires and call the location of the hidden explosives.
- F. The handler can use allotted time to search any of the rooms at their discretion.

7. OPERATIONAL TESTING: PARCELS

- A. The parcel/package test will be conducted indoor or outdoor as space permits, with at least fifteen (15) items to be searched.
- B. These items should be placed on the floor in any pattern, three feet from each other as search space permits.
- C. There will be a three minute time limit for this venue, with a thirty (30) second warning given prior to ending.

8. OPERATIONAL TESTING: VEHICLES

- A. Five Vehicles will be used. The vehicles may be of any type or model and may include autos, trucks, buses, airplanes, boats, etc.
- B. Vehicles will be searched outdoors at all times. The only exception to this requirement would be in the interest of safety due to severe weather conditions. The Chief Judge will make this decision.
- C. The substance can be placed on the outside of the vehicle or placed inside where scent is available to the canine from the outside.
- D. No two hides will be placed on the same vehicle.
- E. The vehicles will be spaced a minimum of fifteen feet apart and can be placed in any order or position, as long as the team has access to them.
- F. Only the outside of the vehicles are to be searched. There will be a 10 minute time limit total with a 2 minute warning at the 8 minute mark.

Teams failing to successfully certify will not immediately be given a second chance. Multiple tests of the same team will not be conducted. The team has to undergo a period of retraining, documenting successful performance, before any attempt at re-certification. Only official Certificates of Certification (Provided by the National Office) will be issued to participants who successfully pass a USPCA Certification test.

Chief Judges are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the paperwork

Mail or E-mail completed trial paperwork to include: (within 30 days of the trial)

- Original Master score sheet
- Judges and Scorekeepers list with events judged
- The high-low sheets showing the scores of all judges.

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