

GOVERNING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION

ACCELERANT DETECTION CANINES

The purpose of this test is to evaluate the ability of a canine to detect and find accelerants concealed in various locations. The General Rules and Definitions for Detector Dogs, stated earlier, will also govern testing unless specifically stated. All certifications are good through December 31st of the following year. (ie: if you certify on April 1st, 2012, your certification will not expire until December 31st, 2013)

1. JUDGES:

The Chief Judge for this test must be on the approved list of Chief Judges as set by the Association in February of each year. A minimum of three judges will be used for this test.

2. ODORS:

This test will be comprised of four separate searches involving the following three major groupings. Any odor used beyond the list supplied below, must be agreed to by both Region participants and Chief Judge before the testing begins.

GROUP 1: Light Petroleum Distillate (LPD)

Zippo Lighter Fluid	Paint thinner
Lacquer thinner	Octane Booster
Aviation Gasoline	

GROUP 2: Medium Petroleum Distillate (MPD)

Charcoal Lighter Fluid	Lamplight Farms B	Citronella Fluid
Paint Thinner	Lacquer Thinner	Fresh Gasoline

GROUP 3: Heavy Petroleum Distillate (HPD)

Kerosene	Diesel Fuel	Jet Fuels
Lamp Oil		

3. PREPARATION OF TESTING MATERIALS:

- A. The liquid accelerant amount to be used on each of the four individual search problems is specified. The time a tested substance will be in place is a minimum of twenty minutes after substance was air-dried for ten minutes prior to starting the search.
- B. Burnt materials will consist of two pieces of raw oak, each two feet by four inches by eight inches, with six ounces of two liquids from two of the three above accelerant groups. The selected liquid to be poured over each wood piece, ignited and let to burn unrestricted until out. One piece will be used for the vehicle search and the other for the indoor search.

4. INDOOR TEST - INTERIOR ROOMS

A. The indoor search will consist of three separate 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 secreted hide will consist of burnt material as listed under preparation of testing materials above. No hide may be higher than six feet from the ground or floor.

C. There will be a two minute warning before the time limit expires. The handler can call the location of the hide after time has elapsed.

5. VEHICLE SEARCH TEST:

A. Three Vehicles of any type will be used.

B. The order of the vehicles will be approved by the Chief Judge and will permit teams easy access.

C. The testing substance (burnt material) can be placed on the outside of the vehicle or placed inside where scent is available to the canine from the outside at the Chief Judges discretion. No two hides will be on the same vehicle.

D. There will be a 10-minute time limit total with a 2-minute warning at the 8-minute mark. If the insides of the vehicles are searched, an additional one minute will be added for each vehicle interior.

6. PERIMETER SEARCH TEST:

A. Five containers of a one-gallon capacity size will be utilized. Containers will be selected by the Chief Judge and can be the same type, or various shapes and materials.

B. One container will be contaminated with a petroleum product. The contamination will consist of filling one container with four ounces of a petroleum product and then pouring the liquid out. Trace liquid will be left.

C. The outside perimeter test area will be thirty feet by thirty feet in tall grass or other vegetation. The five containers will be placed in this area.

D. The perimeter search will have a five-minute time limit with a thirty second warning at four and ½ minutes.

7. CROWD SEARCH TEST:

A. This search will consist of searching for contaminated clothing. Six individuals can be involved or six articles of clothing can be used. The Chief Judge will make the determination depending on the circumstances and practicality.

B. One article of clothing (just the clothing or clothing on an individual) will be contaminated with two ounces of acetone and then air dried for ten minutes. The search will be conducted a minimum of twenty minutes after the airdrying period.

C. The crowd search will have a five-minute time limit with a thirty-second warning at four and ½ minutes.

8. SCORING:

A maximum total point score of 200 is possible with certification at 140 points. The following is a breakdown of points for each phase:

- Vehicle search is worth 50 points
- Indoor search is worth 50 points
- Perimeter search is worth 50 points
- Crowd search is worth 50 points

See scoresheets for areas of evaluation. Any extreme or abusive correction or treatment of a dog – loss of temper or display of poor sportsmanship by the handler will result in disqualification from the certification as determined by the Chief Judge. The Executive Board may undertake its own investigation and take any action it deems appropriate based on the totality of the circumstances.

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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