

GOVERNING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION
IGNITEABLE SUBSTANCE 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, 2025, your certification will not expire until December 31st, 2026)

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 **four** 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)

Cigarette Lighter Fluid	Paint thinner

GROUP 2: Medium Petroleum Distillate (MPD)

Charcoal Lighter Fluid	Lacquer Thinner	Citronella Fluid
Paint Thinner		

GROUP 3: Heavy Petroleum Distillate (HPD)

Kerosene	Diesel Fuel	Fuel Oil
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Lamp Oil		
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GROUP 4: Gasoline

Fresh Gasoline	50% evaporated Gasoline	75% evaporated Gasoline
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3. PREPARATION OF TESTING MATERIALS:

- A. The liquid accelerant amount to be used on each of the four individual search phases 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 **2** pieces of raw pine or any raw wood available. Size of the wood pieces will be 2x4 that is no less than 4 inches and no more than 12 inches long. The Chief Judge or selected official will select 6 ounces of liquid from one of the accelerant groups, and 6 ounces of liquid from a different group. One of the liquids will be poured onto the top of one of the 2x4's, ignited and let to burn unrestricted until out. The other liquid will be poured onto the top of the other 2x4, ignited and let to burn unrestricted until out.
- C. The USPCA requires that at least one phase of this testing be conducted in a realistic environment. (Fire Scene) This should be controlled by the Chief Judge in cooperation with Fire Department or Fire Department personnel for safety reasons. At least one phase should have something burned. Options include at least ONE burned room, at least ONE burned vehicle or have the ground around the outdoor phases burned. The Chief Judge can select any or all of the above. For these burned areas, no accelerant should be used to start the burning of the areas. (torches or other means of starting a fire should be used) Please ensure that the Fire department does not use anything except water to extinguish any fire. The Chief Judge should monitor this process and ensure that no retardant or chemical was used to extinguish the burned area.

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. One of the prepared 2x4's (as listed under 3 B) will be used for this phase. 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 2nd prepared 2x4 (as listed under 3 B) will be used for this phase. It shall 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.

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 or the five containers may be placed randomly around the perimeter of a building measuring an appropriate minimum area of 25 feet by 50 feet.

D. The perimeter search will have a five-minute time limit with a thirty second warning at four and 1/2 minutes.

E. The USPCA recommends using a different odor than used in the other phases if possible.

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 paint thinner or lighter fluid, and then air dried for ten minutes. The search will be conducted a minimum of twenty minutes after the airdrying period.

C. The USPCA recommends using a different odor than used in the other phases if possible.

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D. The crowd search will have a five-minute time limit with a thirty-second warning at four and 1/2 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 must 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

Upload 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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