



## EXPLOSIVE CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

- I. Certification of Explosive Handler and Dog Teams
  - A. Certification of explosive dog teams shall be limited to current law enforcement and approved private sector.
  - B. Certifications will be valid for one year from the date of certification.
  
- II. Qualified Certification Officials
  - A. IPCA Executive Board will designate certification officials.
  - B. Each certification official will have a minimum of five years' experience training detection dogs, to include a minimum of two years of explosive dog training. From time to time, the IPCA Board of Directors, in its discretion, may waive certain requirements.
  - C. Certification officials will designate the areas to be tested and will coordinate with the host agency to obtain these areas.
  - D. The certification official will be responsible for coordinating with the host agency to obtain explosive training aids to be used in the test procedure.
  - E. The certification official will be responsible for ensuring all safety precautions are adhered to by all persons involved in the certification process.
  - F. Certification official will evaluate the following areas during the examination.
    1. Does the canine recognize the odor of the explosive?
    2. Does the canine alert to the odor of the explosive?
    3. Does the handler recognize the canine alert?
    4. The working ability of the dog, to include scent recognition and indication.
    5. Overall performance demonstrated by the certifying K9 team.
    6. Theoretical knowledge, including types of explosives and explosive devices, safety precautions on the discovery of explosives and use of equipment.
  - G. At any time, the certification official can terminate the search for cause.
  - H. Once deployed, search time for each area will not exceed ten minutes for each search.
  
- III. Explosive Canine Testing Area
  - A. The tests will be set in as practical a manner as possible using 'live' buildings, areas, etc.
  - B. The tests should include:
    1. Building search
      - a. Buildings, warehouses, residences or any other structure utilized as a certification site shall be no less than 1,000 square feet per individual search area and shall have furniture or other articles present in the search area.
    2. Vehicle search
      - a. The word 'vehicles' as used for the purpose of certification shall include any passenger car, truck, van or transportation vehicle. A transport vehicle could be an aircraft, bus or water craft. During the vehicle search, six vehicles will be present. The search shall be limited to the exterior of the vehicle.

3. **Area Search**
  - a. Area searches shall include all areas surrounding a structure or any route search where explosive devices could be concealed.
4. **Luggage/Parcel Search**
  - a. A luggage/parcel search shall be described as any search containing at least ten, but no more than twenty, containers that could conceal the explosive odors. Examples of containers are boxes, luggage, crates, cans, etc. These containers will be evenly spaced throughout an area allowing the dog to freely move from container to container.

#### **IV. Explosive Substances**

- A. All aids used in testing should be of recent manufacture and in separate containers.
- B. The certification will contain, but is not limited to, the following pure explosive odors:
  1. Black powder
  2. Smokeless powder
  3. Ammonium Nitrate
  4. Dynamite
  5. C4
  6. Det Cord
  7. TNT
  8. Deta Sheet
  9. RDX
  10. PETN
- C. The maximum weight of the explosives shall be unlimited, however, a minimum of one-half pound of substance shall be used for each find for certification.
- D. All explosive finds shall be placed in search areas for at least thirty minutes prior to the first search team starting certification.
- E. No explosive find shall be placed at an elevation higher than eight feet.
- F. A verification of explosive odor will be conducted prior to deployment of the first search team.

#### **V. Certification Standards**

- A. The dog shall be able to locate/indicate from zero up to three (3) separate stashes of explosive materials which have been hidden in a building.
- B. The dog shall be able to locate/indicate from zero up to three (3) separate stashes of explosive materials which have been hidden on three (3) of six (6) personal vehicles.
- C. The dog shall be able to locate/indicate from zero up to three (3) separate stashes of explosive materials which have been hidden in an area or building exterior.
- D. The dog shall be able to locate/indicate from zero up to three (3) separate stashes of explosive materials which have been hidden in ten (10) to twenty (20) containers.

#### **VI. Alerts**

- A. It shall be the responsibility of each handler to advise the certifying official as to the type of alert/indication his canine will give.
- B. To cause an official to score a positive find for the detection team, the handler must verbally state 'alert' to the certifying official for the alert/indication to be recorded and identify the location of the alert.
- C. In the event a dog gets aggressive with objects during the search, such as containers, this aggression is grounds for failure.
- D.

**VII. False Alerts**

- A. Any false alert called by a handler may be grounds for certification failure.**

**VIII. Certification Failure**

- A. A detection team who fails to locate/indicate may be tested again after a time designated by the certifying official, not to exceed a thirty-day period.**
- B. All decisions made by certification officials are final.**

