



NARCOTIC CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

- I. **Certification of Narcotic Handler and Dog Teams**
 - A. Certification of narcotic dog teams shall be limited to current law enforcement personnel only & authorized private sector.
 - B. Certifications will be valid for one year from the date of certification.

- II. **Qualified Certification Officials**
 - A. The IPCA Executive Board will designate certification officials. Each certification official will have a minimum of five years' experience training detection dogs, to include a minimum of 2 years of narcotic dog training.
From time to time, the CNCA Board of Directors, in its discretion, may waive certain requirements.
 - B. Certification officials will designate the areas to be tested and will coordinate with the host agency to obtain these areas.
 - C. The certification official will be responsible for coordinating with the host agency to obtain narcotic training aids to be used in the test procedure.
 - D. The certification official will be responsible for ensuring all safety precautions are adhered to by all persons involved in the certification process.
 - E. Certification official will evaluate the following areas during the examination.
 1. Does the canine recognize the odor of the narcotic?
 2. Does the canine alert to the odor of the narcotic?
 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.
 - F. At any time, the certification official can terminate the search for cause.
 - G. Once deployed, search time for each area will not exceed seven minutes for each search.

- III. **Narcotic 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, residence 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.
 - b. Certifying Officials, at their discretion, may substitute area, parcel, and luggage searches when the required areas are unavailable.
 2. Vehicle search
 - a. The word 'vehicles' as used for the purpose of certification shall include any passenger car, truck, or van. During the vehicle search, three vehicles must be present.

- IV. **Narcotic Substances**
 - A. All aids used in testing should be stored in separate containers.

- B. The certification will contain the following narcotic odors:
 - 1. Heroin – black tar or powder
 - 2. Cocaine – powder or rock
 - 3. Methamphetamine – powder or ice
 - 4. Marijuana - OPTIONAL
 - 5. Opium – OPTIONAL
- C. The maximum weight of the narcotics shall be unlimited; however, a minimum of 20 GRAMS of substance shall be used for each find for certification.
- D. All narcotic finds shall be placed in search areas for at least thirty minutes prior to the first search team starting certification.
- E. No narcotic find shall be placed at an elevation higher than six feet, unless it can be accessed by the canine.
- F. A verification of narcotic odor will be conducted prior to deployment of the first search team.
- G. There will be a total of four search areas in addition to the three vehicles.
- H. Each search area will have zero to two finds, with one area or vehicle being blank.
- I. All the listed substances will be included in the certification in any combination designated by the certifying official.

V. Certification Standards

- A. The dog shall be able to locate/indicate all the stashes of narcotic substances hidden in each location.
- B. In jurisdictions, where marijuana is declared by law or policy not to be enforceable, then it is not a requirement for the canine team to be certified on marijuana. Prior to initiating the narcotic certification test, the handler must verbally declare to the Certifying Official that he/she is **OPTING OUT** of finding marijuana and will only be certifying on the remaining substances.
- C. The dog shall be able to locate/indicate all the previously declared controlled substances which the K9 team is attempting to locate/indicate in the test area.

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 to identify the location of the alert.

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 on one aid during the certification may be tested again the same day if the certification official rules that the miss is the handler's error and requires no additional training of the canine.
- B. All other certification failures require the team to reschedule another certification on a later date.
- C. All decisions made by certification officials are final.