



Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board

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Annual Narcotic Canine Requalification Instructions

Objectives:

- Standardize the requalification process for all narcotics detection canines operating within Illinois.
- Demonstrate the ability of the canine to accurately detect illegal drug odor(s) that the canine is reported to have been taught to detect through training, ensuring compliance with the Illinois Controlled Substances Act, Methamphetamine Control and Community Protection Act, and Cannabis Control Act.
- Provide consistency among all testing facilities approved by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board.
- Reduce the likelihood of unlawful search and seizure to innocent motorists and citizens by demonstrating the canine's ability to accurately detect drug odor(s.)
- Ensure that no canine is used as a basis for probable cause searches until they successfully demonstrate the ability to complete the annual compliance requalification exam.

Instructions to Assessor:

A. Assessor:

1. Annual narcotic canine compliance requalification will only be administered by a State recognized assessor.
2. State recognized assessors are those individuals approved through the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board.

B. Testing Area:

1. The annual narcotic canine requalification will be conducted in a controlled, indoor, environment with a work area consisting of a minimum of 1,500 square feet, as approved by ILETSB.
2. Twenty (20) plastic PVC tube containers will be utilized during the requalification. The initial issued of containers will be provided by ILETSB through the Mobile Training Unit sponsoring the requalification.

3. All 20 containers must appear similar, with the exception of a 2-inch strip of similarly colored blue painter's tape affixed to platform. Each piece of tape will be marked with the numbers 1 through 20 consecutively, but can be intermixed at the discretion of the assessor.
4. The arrangements of the containers will be configured in the following pattern:
 - Two (2) single file rows of ten (10) containers each.
 - Each row must be at least ten (10) feet apart.
 - A minimum of five (5) feet is required between each container.

C. Narcotics Utilized:

1. The drugs utilized during the annual canine requalification will be issued by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and must be rotated every two years, if available.
2. Drug types and quantities will include:
 - One package (15 grams) DEA issued Heroin
 - One package (15 grams) DEA issued Cocaine Hydrochloride
 - One package (15 grams) DEA issued Cannabis
 - One package (15 grams) DEA issued Methamphetamine
3. The drugs used during the requalification will be sealed.
4. The assessor has the option of utilizing a "narc bag" (canvas bag, cloth bag, additional plastic packaging not issued by DEA) at their discretion.

D. Requalification Parameters:

1. The compliance requalification shall consist of 20 container screenings, of which:
 - Five (5) of the twenty containers will be void of any distractionary/proofing odors and eleven (11) of the twenty containers will contain distractionary/proofing odors
 - The remaining four (4) containers will house the identified DEA issued drugs.
2. Set time for placement of the drugs and distractionary/proofing odors will be a minimum of thirty (30) minutes.
3. Distractionary/proofing odors are defined as any object/item other than DEA issued drugs/training aides present during the test; e.g. perishable food items, articles such as leather, plastic, wood, latex, etc.
4. The assessor must take formidable measures to prevent odor contamination when setting the drugs and proofing odors.
5. Once the drugs and distractionary/proofing odors are set, they are not to be moved or removed until the completion of the requalification.
6. If the assessor utilizes canvas/cloth bags or additional plastic packaging not issued by DEA, those similar items should be utilized as distractionary objects.

Instructions to Handler:

A. Annual Requalification:

1. The team will be allotted fifteen (15) minutes to complete this requalification.
2. The canine is required to be on lead during the assessment and must screen all 20 containers within the time frame.
3. The handler is required to advise the assessor what command he/she will utilize to direct the canine to perform the sniff. The handler must verbally command the canine to sniff for the illegal drug odors with this command.
4. The handler is required to verbally “call” the container number when he or she recognizes a canine alert. The assessor will confirm the legitimacy of the “called” alert.
5. Handlers of canines that aggressively indicate (scratch and paw) will take reasonable care not to allow their dogs to damage the containers.
6. The location of drugs for this assessment shall not be discussed or shared with other handlers.

B. Scoring and Remediation:

1. This requalification must be completed with 100% accuracy. The canine must identify the four drugs and must not provide any false indications on blank or distractionary containers.
2. If a canine does not successfully complete the requalification with 100% accuracy, the team will be provided a minimum of 15 minutes to make necessary corrections and retake the requalification on the same day. If the canine fails during the second attempt, a performance plan must be devised.
3. A two-week retraining period will be provided before another attempt is allowed. The canine should not be utilized as a basis for probable cause searches during this period.
4. For calendar year 2019 all second attempt requalification attempts (after the two-week retraining) must be scheduled through MTU 10 and will be conducted at the Macon County K-9 facility.
5. If, after a two-week period for retraining, the canine fails the compliance requalification, the assessor will report their findings to ILETSB. The canine team would then be required to participate in a Board-certified 160-hour canine training course and successfully complete the compliance requalification at the conclusion of the course.
6. ILETSB rules require only one (1) successful annual compliance requalification. Any additional requalification tests performed need not be reported to the Board.