

VIRGINIA POLICE WORK DOG ASSOCIATION

EXPLOSIVE COURIER DETECTION TEST

This test will determine the proficiency and reliability of dogs in the detection of explosives.

All canine teams must be tested on ALL basic odors. The basic odors to be tested on are:

- 1.) Powders (Black, Smokeless and/or Pyrodex)
- 2.) Commercial Dynamite
- 3.) Plastic Explosive (C-4 or Flex-X)
- 4.) T.N.T or Military Dynamite
- 5.) Primer Cord or Det Cord
- 6.) Water-Gel or Slurries

In addition to the basic explosive odors and at the discretion of the Master Trainer additional types of explosives may be utilized for testing.

The maximum weight of explosives used shall be unlimited; however a minimum of 1/2 pound shall be used for testing. Each area tested will contain three (3) aids. Each aid will be a different explosive. The handler will not be informed of the actual type of explosive training aids being utilized for testing. The term "explosive aid" will mean any explosive substance used for VPWDA certification testing. Revised 06-24-05 Six (6) areas will be provided for testing. The canine team will be tested in five (5) of the six (6) areas.

The six (6) areas will be:

- 1.) Building
- 2.) Vehicles
- 3.) Baggage
- 4.) People
- 5.) Open Area
- 6.) Aircraft, Watercraft or Mass Transit Vehicle

The canine team must search the areas of Building, Vehicles, Baggage, and People. The fifth area will be either Open Area, Aircraft, Watercraft or Mass Transit Vehicle.

Revised 10-19-07

To successfully test for certification, **the dog's final response must be passive** and the canine team **CANNOT miss more than one (1) explosive aid in all phases of testing.** A "**team miss**" is defined as any incorrect response by the K9 team. This **includes but is not limited to:**

- 1.) All improper responses (such as the dog giving its final trained response to non explosive odor).
- 2.) Failure to detect the explosive aid (includes when the handler fails to direct the K9 to search the area where the explosive aid is hidden).
- 3.) The K9 exhibiting any Aggressive Response.
- 4.) Exceeding the allotted testing time.
- 5.) Opening of any closed doors, drawers or containers of any kind by either the handler or K9.
- 6.) Excessive contact with people being screened.

Revised 10-19-07

If the testing K9 team has more than one (1) team miss, which is a failure, then the K9 team MUST RETEST in ALL PHASES and in ALL ODORS that they are seeking accreditation for.

All testing will be done on a pass/fail basis. The minimum acceptable level required to pass is 91.6% as defined by the VPWDA explosive detection rules. It is recommended that testing be administered over a two (2) day period or more. The final decision as to the length of the testing period shall rest with the Master Trainer conducting the certification. All aids will be placed at least thirty (30) minutes prior to the testing of the canine team. **NO DETONATING DEVICES WILL BE allowed to be used for testing or BE PLACED WITH THE EXPLOSIVE TRAINING AIDS! ALL HANDLING OF EXPLOSIVE TRAINING AIDS WILL BE DONE IN A SAFE MANNER!** If an explosive aid requires being moved to a new location, the previously used area will be removed as a testing sight. An Accredited VPWDA Master Trainer in Explosive Detector Dogs will conduct all testing. Revised 10-19-07

Prior to the first explosive detector team entering the test area, a human and canine will be walked through the testing area. Prior to testing, each handler will brief the Master Trainer as to the particular dogs alert and response to the explosive aids. Each indication to an explosive training aid by the canine will be obvious to the Master Trainer. Prior to each phase, the Master Trainer will inform the handler of the boundaries, time, starting point, etc., of the search problem. With the exception of an Aircraft Search, **a maximum time limit of thirty (30) minutes will be allotted for each phase of testing.** There is no maximum time limit during

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an Aircraft search. The Master Trainer can terminate the test and fail the team if at the discretion of the Master Trainer the team is **not** working. The Master Trainer will maintain the time limit during the testing and will begin when the canine team begins to search. The test time will stop upon the handler's indication that the search is complete or the time expires. Conversation between tested and untested handlers will not be allowed while testing is in progress. Handlers undergoing testing will not be allowed to observe other canine teams during the testing procedure.

No overly harsh or inappropriate physical corrections by the handler to the dog will be permitted. At the Master Trainers discretion, any such behavior will be grounds for a failure of the Explosive Detection Test.

The purpose of accreditation testing is to observe the team's ability to locate a hidden explosive. It should be noted that all explosive aids may not be pinpointed to source by the dog due to height, wind current or placement of the aid. The Master Trainer will exercise reasonable judgment and the handler should consider all changes in behavior by the dog towards explosive odor.

Each certification certificate will be valid for one (1) year from the date of the test. It should be noted that normal training and retraining of the canine team must be conducted to maintain and enhance the team's capability.

All explosive aids used in testing should be of recent manufacture and in separate containers. It will be the responsibility of the agencies being tested to provide the required explosive aids. All explosive aids utilized for testing will be actual explosives. No pseudo or non-explosive substitutes will be used for testing. STRICT SAFETY MEASURES will be upheld during testing! All outdoor testing will immediately discontinue with the imminent threat of any inclement weather that is associated with lightning. All explosive aids will be placed in such a manner that the dog cannot touch or retrieve same.

BUILDING SEARCH (mandatory):

The building search will consist of four (4) rooms to be searched by the canine team. Each room will be a minimum of 400 square feet in size and contain some type of furniture. Only one (1) explosive aid will be placed within each room. One room will be blank, containing no explosive aid. The explosive aids will be placed anywhere from eight (8) feet high to ground level. The handler and/or dog will not open any closed doors, cabinet's desk drawers, etc. during testing.

VEHICLE SEARCH (mandatory):

A minimum of eight (8) motor vehicles will be utilized for testing. Any type or model of passenger vehicle, including pickup trucks, tractor-trailers, vans and buses may be utilized for testing (subject to availability). The vehicles will be parked in a configuration similar to a parking lot in order to allow access to each vehicle by the canine team being tested. Only one (1) explosive aid will be placed on or in each vehicle.

One (1) explosive aid must be placed inside of a closed engine compartment. Additional explosive aids will be placed on or within the vehicles at the discretion of the Master Trainer; recommended but not limited to:

- 1.) Fuel tank exterior or fuel filler pipe.
- 2.) Drive shaft.
- 3.) Interior of closed trunk compartment.
- 4.) Closed passenger compartment.
- 5.) Undercarriage.
- 6.) Outer body.

BAGGAGE SEARCH (mandatory):

The type of baggage utilized for testing will be defined as hard and soft shell suitcases, attaché, cases, clothing bags, briefcases, golf bags, sea bags, duffel bags, boxes, parcels and any other containers used for the transport of personal items or shipping purposes. The Master Trainer will have ultimate discretion over the types of bags utilized for testing. A minimum of fifteen (15) bags will be utilized for testing. All explosive aids will be secured within each bag utilized for testing. One (1) or more bags should contain clothing or other items associated with the types of baggage used. The baggage should be placed in a straight line and broken up into rows.

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PEOPLE SEARCH (mandatory):

One "hide" high and one "low" hide, for each explosive aid.

When testing three (3) explosive aids will be concealed high and low on the person. There will be a **minimum of one (1) hide of each explosive attempted to be certified in**, hidden "high" on people (suicide bombers vest, back pack, bombers belt, or any other area of concealment above the persons waist), and a minimum of one (1) **hide of the same explosive**, hidden "low" on people (shoes, pockets, strapped to leg, etc.): **thus making a total of two (2) hides of each explosive attempted to be certified in for the people search portion of the test. There will be no contact between the individuals being screened and the dog.** There will be a minimum of five (5) people to be screened with each find. **Strict safety measures while working with people as training aids will be adhered to. All explosive aids used will require the use of a "Barrier" object such as a towel, paper towel, cardboard, etc., to prevent the explosive aid from coming into direct contact with the persons skin, no humans in the line up will have a firearm on their person during the test.**

Adopted October 19, 2007

OPEN AREA SEARCH:

Open area search shall be defined as:

- 1.) Building Exteriors.
- 2.) Open fields.
- 3.) Wooded areas.
- 4.) Any area outside not covered in the above.

The Open Area utilized for testing will be no larger than 100 yards by 100 yards (300 feet by 300 feet) and no small than 50 yards by 50 yards (150 feet by 150 feet) or any configuration thereof. At the discretion of the Master Trainer, all explosive aids will be placed from one (1) foot below surface level to a maximum of eight (8) feet above surface level.

AIRCRAFT SEARCH:

The availability of aircraft will be the deciding factor in this phase of testing and at the discretion of the Master Trainer. Commuter, commercial and military aircraft capable of carrying a minimum of 16 people may be utilized for this test phase. Inoperable aircraft (used for ground training purposes only but mechanically incapable of flying) are acceptable for certification purposes. The search shall include the interior and exterior of the aircraft along with all ground support equipment. One (1) explosive aid will be placed in the interior of the aircraft. The interior of the aircraft includes the passenger compartment, cockpit, lavatories and cargo compartments. Additional explosive aids may be placed at the discretion of the Master Trainer either inside or outside the aircraft. The exterior of the aircraft includes the landing gear, wings, engines and ground support equipment. **There is no time limit during the aircraft search test. Strict safety measures while working inside of a busy airport will be adhered to. All explosive aids used will require the use of a "Barrier" object such as a towel, paper towel, cardboard, etc., to prevent the explosive aid from coming into direct contact with any physical part of the aircraft, causing residue contamination.**

WATERCRAFT SEARCH:

The availability of watercraft will be the deciding factor in this phase of testing and at the discretion of the Master Trainer. The types of watercraft used for testing shall be, but not limited to, cruise ships, freighters, cargo ships, tug boats, barges, military vessels or any other type of watercraft with an open deck and an interior cabin area. One (1) explosive aid will be placed inside of an interior portion of the watercraft such as a cabin, wheelhouse, cargo compartment or engine room. Two (2) explosive aids will be placed on or about the open deck area of the ship or dockside support equipment. **Strict safety measures while**

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working near the water and around steep stairwells, which are the norm for many ships, will be adhered to. The Master Trainer will use discretion in placing explosive aids in a location that may expose the canine team to the risk of falling overboard or being injured by deck equipment. On smaller watercraft, personal flotation jackets should be utilized.

MASS TRANSIT VEHICLE SEARCH:

The availability of Mass Transit Vehicles will be the deciding factor in this phase of testing and at the discretion of the Master Trainer. Passenger trains, subways, overhead rail and commercial touring buses will be utilized for testing. A minimum of one (1) explosive aid will be placed in the interior of the mass transit vehicle. Additional explosives may, at the discretion of the Master Trainer, be placed either inside or

outside of the mass transit vehicle. The exterior includes support equipment, loading docks, platforms and baggage handling equipment. Strict safety measures while working near busy rail yards, depots and electrical equipment will be adhered to. All explosive aids used for testing will require the use of a "Barrier" object such as a towel, paper towel, cardboard, etc., to prevent the explosive aid from coming into contact with any physical part of the mass transit vehicle causing residue contamination.

Adopted 06-24-05

This certification will be valid for one (1) year from the date of issue as defined in Certification Validity paragraph. There will be no fee charged for VPWDA certification testing. A fee may be imposed to cover expenses of travel, lodging and meals only, if necessary. Revised 06-14-03

This section reviewed and revised 06-24-05.