

**Board of Trustees**  
**MAINE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY**

**PATROL CANINE (K-9) TEAM CERTIFICATION**

**Specification S-17**

The following requirements are specified for the certification of Patrol K-9 Teams. A Patrol K-9 Team will consist of a Patrol K-9 Handler and K-9 that together, as a team, have been certified by the Board of Trustees under the guidelines set forth in Specification 17 as described below. A K-9 will be considered certified for law enforcement use if the K-9 and the handler meet the requirements of Specification 17.

A Patrol K-9 Team is a certified K-9 Team consisting of a Handler and K-9, trained as a team in the following areas: Obedience, Agility, Tracking, Officer Protection, Building Search, Article Search, Criminal Apprehension and Other Related Areas.

**General Requirements:**

- A. K-9 Advisory Committee (K-9AC)
  - 1. The K-9AC and its Chair will be appointed by the Academy Director and will consist of the following five (5) members who are either a MCJA Certified K-9 Trainer or Assistant Trainer, who must represent the following criminal justice agencies:
    - a. Maine State Police K-9 Training Unit.
    - b. Maine Warden Service K-9 Training Unit.
    - c. Law Enforcement Dogs of Maine.
    - d. Maine Specialty Dogs (Accelerant) Training Unit.
    - e. All Points Maine Police Canines
    - f. A non-voting Academy Training Coordinator.
  - 2. The K-9AC will meet annually and whenever necessary to review the Patrol and Detector K-9 Team Specifications. Specifically, the K-9AC will:
    - a. Review all the field competency tests and written exams for each K-9 discipline (patrol and detector) and make recommendations to the K-9AC Chair.
    - b. Review the K-9 Team certification requirements and make recommendations to the K-9AC Chair.
    - c. Review the K-9 Team In-service Training content and make recommendations to the K-9AC Chair on updates.
    - d. Forward to the Academy Director all recommendations of the K-9AC, regarding changes to the Patrol or Detector K-9 Team programs.
    - e. The Academy Director will forward all certification recommendations to the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

**Certification:**

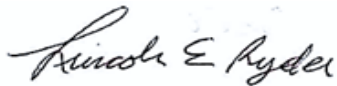
- A. Be employed as a certified law enforcement or corrections officer and have completed a basic training course for a full-time law enforcement or corrections officer.
- B. Be designated by the Chief Executive Officer or his/her designee of the criminal justice agency as a K-9 Handler.
- C. A new Patrol K-9 Handler and new K-9 must successfully complete a Board approved basic Patrol K-9 training course with a minimum of four hundred and thirty (430) hours. Of these four hundred and thirty (430) hours, two hundred and eighty (280) hours must be completed as a Patrol K-9 Team.

- D. An experienced Patrol K-9 Handler with or without an experienced K-9 and who has previously held an active K-9 certification from MCJA in the last four (4) years as a Patrol K-9 Team must successfully complete a Board approved basic Patrol K-9 Team training course with a minimum of two hundred and eighty (280) hours.
- E. Must successfully pass a written exam with a minimum score of 80% on Patrol K-9 related topics approved by the Academy Director.
- F. Must successfully pass a Patrol K-9 Team field competency test approved by the Academy Director.

**Recertification:**

- A. Recertification shall be required annually, by December 31<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year.
- B. The Patrol K-9 Team shall annually, successfully complete a field performance test for Patrol K-9 Teams approved by the Academy Director.
- C. The Patrol K-9 Team shall annually complete a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours of supervised classroom or field in-service K-9 training per quarter in Patrol K-9 related training. Quarterly Patrol K-9 in-service training shall be supervised by a Board-certified K-9 trainer.
- D. Quarterly Patrol K-9 in-service training requirements or field performance testing may be extended in individual cases by the Academy Director for extenuating circumstances. Any K-9 Handler given an extension of these requirements must submit a written plan to the Academy Director for approval and then must complete the missed training and/or field performance test.
- E. The Patrol K-9 Handler, with the permission of the Chief Executive Officer or his/her designee, shall submit the proper documentation on the appropriate MCJA reporting forms to the Academy indicating the Patrol K-9 Team has successfully completed the Patrol K-9 in-service training and the annual Patrol K-9 Team field competency test.
- F. The Academy Training Coordinator will review the documentation at the end of the calendar year and make the appropriate recommendations to the Academy Director, as outlined in Specification 17.
- G. The Academy Director will forward all certification recommendations to the Board.

Adopted: 01/01/2005  
Revised: 09/12/2025  
Review Date: 09/12/2027



Lincoln E. Ryder, Director  
Maine Criminal Justice Academy



Charles Rumsey, Chair  
MCJA Board of Trustees