

Board of Trustees
MAINE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY

DETECTOR CANINE (K-9) TEAM CERTIFICATION

Specification S-18

The following requirements are specified for the certification of Detector K-9 Teams. A Detector K-9 Team will consist of a Detector K-9 Handler and K-9 that together, as a team, have been certified by the Board under the guidelines set forth in Specification 18, 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 18.

A Detector K-9 Team is a certified team consisting of a Handler and K-9, trained as a team in one or more of the following detector disciplines: Drugs, Ignitable Liquids, Cadavers Scents, Explosives, Articles, Fish and Wildlife, Tracking Without Apprehension and other disciplines as designated by the Academy Board.

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 shall:
 - 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.

General Certification:

- A. Be employed as a certified law enforcement or corrections officer or a retired law enforcement or corrections officer who was certified by the Maine Criminal Justice Academy as a K-9 Handler or a member of the Medical Examiner's Office.
- B. Be designated by the Chief Executive Officer or his/her designee of the criminal justice agency as a K-9 Handler or the Academy Director in the case of the Medical Examiner's Office, meeting the requirements described above in **General Certification, section A above**.

C. **Drug Detector K-9 Team Certification:**

1. A Drug Detector K-9 Handler and new K-9 must successfully complete a basic Board approved Drug Detector K-9 training course with a minimum of three hundred and twenty (320) hours. Of these three hundred and twenty (320) hours, two hundred and forty (240) hours must be completed as Drug Detector K-9 Team.
2. An experienced Drug Detector 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 4 years as a Drug Detector K-9 Team, must successfully complete a Board approved basic Drug Detector K-9 training course with a minimum of two hundred and forty (240) hours.
3. Must successfully pass a written exam with a minimum score of 80% on Drug Detector K-9 related topics approved by the Academy Director.
4. Must successfully pass a Drug Detector K-9 Team field competency test approved by the Academy Director.

D. **Ignitable Liquid Detector K-9 Team Certification:**

1. An Ignitable Liquid Detector K-9 Handler and new K-9, must successfully complete a basic Board approved Ignitable Liquid Detector K-9 training course with a minimum of two hundred (200) hours. Of these two hundred (200) hours, one hundred and sixty (160) hours must be completed as an Ignitable Liquid Detector K-9 Team.
2. An experienced Ignitable Liquid Detector 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 4 years as an Ignitable Liquid Detector K-9 Team, must successfully complete a Board approved basic Ignitable Liquid Detector K-9 training course with a minimum of one hundred and sixty (160) hours.
3. Must successfully pass a written exam with a minimum score of 80% on Ignitable Liquid Detector K-9 related topics approved by the Academy Director.
4. Must successfully pass an Ignitable Liquid Detector K-9 Team field competency test approved by the Academy Director.

E. **Cadaver Scent Detector K-9 Team Certification:**

1. A Cadaver Scent Detector K-9 Handler and new K-9, must successfully complete a basic Board approved Cadaver Detector K-9 training course with a minimum of two hundred (200) hours. Of these two hundred (200) hours, one hundred and sixty (160) hours must be completed as a Cadaver Scent Detector K-9 Team.
2. An experienced Cadaver Scent Detector 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 4 years as a Cadaver Scent Detector K-9 Team, must successfully complete a Board approved basic Cadaver Scent Detector K-9 training course with a minimum of one hundred and sixty 160 hours.
3. Must successfully pass a written exam with a minimum score of 80% on Cadaver Scent Detector K-9 related topics approved by the Academy Director.
4. Must successfully pass a Cadaver Scent Detector K-9 Team field competency test approved by the Academy Director.

F. **Explosive Detector K-9 Team Certification:**

1. An Explosive Detector K-9 Handler and new K-9, must successfully complete a basic Board approved Explosive Detector K-9 training course with a minimum of three hundred and twenty (320) hours. Of these three hundred and twenty (320) hours, two hundred and forty (240) hours must be completed as an Explosive Detector K-9 Team.
2. An experienced Explosive Detector 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 4 years as an Explosive Detector K-9 Team, must successfully complete a Board approved basic Explosive Detector K-9 training course with a minimum of two hundred and forty 240 hours.
3. Must successfully pass a written exam with a minimum score of 80% on Explosive Detector K-9 related topics approved by the Academy Director.
4. Must successfully pass an Explosive Detector K-9 Team field competency test approved by the Academy Director.

G. **Article Detector K-9 Team Certification:**

1. An Article Detector K-9 Handler and new K-9, must successfully complete a basic Board approved Article Detector K-9 training course with a minimum of eighty (80) hours. Of these eighty (80) hours, all eighty (80) hours must be completed as an Article Detector K-9 Team.
2. An experienced Article Detector 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 4 years as an Article Detector K-9 Team, must successfully complete a Board approved basic Article Detector K-9 training course with a minimum of eighty 80 hours.
3. Must successfully pass a written exam with a minimum score of 80% on Article Detector K-9 handling related topics by the Academy Director.
4. Must successfully pass an Article Detector K-9 Team field competency test approved by the Academy Director.

H. **Fish and Wildlife Detector K-9 Team Certification:**

1. A Fish & Wildlife Detector K-9 Handler and new K-9, must successfully complete a basic Board approved Fish & Wildlife Detector K-9 training course with a minimum of two hundred (200) hours. Of these two hundred (200) hours, one hundred and sixty (160) hours must be completed as a Fish and Wildlife Detector K-9 Team.
2. An experienced Fish & Wildlife Detector 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 4 years as a Fish & Wildlife Detector K-9 Team, must successfully complete a Board approved basic Fish & Wildlife Detector K-9 training course with a minimum of one hundred and sixty 160 hours.
3. Must successfully pass a written exam with a minimum score of 80% on Fish & Wildlife Detector K-9 related topics approved by the Academy Director.
4. Must successfully pass a Fish & Wildlife Detector K-9 Team field competency test approved by the Academy Director.

I. **Tracking (Without Apprehension) Detector K-9 Team Certification:**

1. A Tracking (Without Apprehension) Detector K-9 Handler and new K-9, must successfully complete a basic Board approved Tracking (Without Apprehension) Detector K-9 training course with a minimum of two hundred (200) hours. Of these two hundred (200) hours, one hundred and sixty (160) hours must be completed as a Tracking (Without Apprehension) Detector K-9 Team.
2. An experienced Tracking (Without Apprehension) Detector 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 4 years as a Tracking (Without Apprehension) Detector K-9 Team, must successfully complete a Board approved basic Tracking (Without Apprehension) Detector K-9 training course with a minimum of 160 hours.
3. Must successfully pass a written exam with a minimum score of 80% on Tracking (Without Apprehension) Detector K-9 related topics approved by the Academy Director.
4. Must successfully pass a Tracking (Without Apprehension) Detector K-9 Team field competency test approved by the Academy Director.

J. **Tracking (Without Apprehension) & Article Detector combined**

1. A Tracking (Without Apprehension) & Article Detector K-9 Handler and new K-9, must successfully complete a basic Board approved Tracking (Without Apprehension) Detector and Article K-9 training course with a minimum of two hundred eighty (280) hours. Of these two hundred (280) hours, two hundred forty (240) hours must be completed as a Tracking (Without Apprehension) and Article Detector K-9 Team.
2. An experienced Tracking (Without Apprehension) or Article Detector 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 4 years as a Tracking (Without Apprehension) or Article Detector K-9 Team, must successfully complete a Board approved basic Tracking (Without Apprehension) and Article Detector K-9 training course with a minimum of 240 hours.
3. Must successfully pass written exam/exams with a minimum score of 80% on Tracking (Without Apprehension) and Article Detector K-9 related topics approved by the Academy Director.
4. Must successfully pass Tracking (Without Apprehension) and Article Detector K-9 Team field competency test(s) approved by the Academy Director.

K. **Search and Rescue (SAR) Detector K-9 Team Certification**

1. A Search and Rescue Scent Detector K-9 Handler and new K-9, must successfully complete a basic Board of Trustee approved SAR Detector K-9 training course with a minimum of five hundred sixty (560) hours. All five hundred sixty (560) hours must be completed as an Article Detector K-9 Team.
2. An experienced Detector 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 4 years as an Article, Tracking and/or Cadaver Detector K-9 Team, must successfully complete a Board of Trustee approved basic SAR Detector K-9 training course with a minimum of five hundred twenty (520) hours.
3. Must successfully pass a written exam with a minimum score of 80% on Search and Rescue Detector K-9 related topics approved by the Academy Director.
4. Must successfully pass a Search and Rescue Detector K-9 Team field competency test approved by the Academy Director.

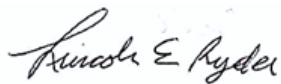
Recertification:

- A. Recertification will be required annually, by December 31 of each calendar year.
- B. The Detector K-9 Team shall annually, successfully complete a field performance test approved by the Academy Director, in each detector specialty area that the Detector K-9 Team is certified.
- C. The Detector 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 detector K-9 related training. Quarterly Detector K-9 in-service training will be supervised by a Board-certified K-9 trainer.
- D. Quarterly K-9 in-service training requirements for Detector K-9 Teams with multiple detector certifications, only need to complete twenty-four (24) hours per quarter in any combination of detector specialties that the Detector K-9 Team is certified in.
- E. Quarterly K-9 in-service training or field performance testing requirements may be extended in individual cases by the Academy Director for extenuating circumstances. Any K-9 Handler given an extension of this requirement must submit a written plan to the Academy Director for approval and then must complete the missed training and/or field performance test.
- F. The Detector 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 Detector K-9 Team has successfully completed the Detector K-9 in-service training and annual Detector K-9 Team field competency tests.
- G. 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 18.
- H. 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