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:**

1. 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:

1. Maine State Police K-9 Training Unit.
2. Maine Warden Service K-9 Training Unit.
3. Law Enforcement Dogs of Maine.
4. Maine Specialty Dogs (Accelerant) Training Unit.
5. All Points Maine Police Canines
6. 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:

1. 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.
2. Review the K-9 Team certification requirements and make recommendations to the K-9AC Chair.
3. Review the K-9 Team In-service Training content and make recommendations to the K-9AC Chair on updates.
4. Forward to the Academy Director all recommendations of the K-9AC, regarding changes to the Patrol or Detector K-9 Team programs.
5. 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**.

1. **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 test 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.

### 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 test 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.

### 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 test 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.

1. **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 test 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.

1. **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 test 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.

1. **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 test 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.

1. **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 test 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 test(s) 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 test 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: 11/13/2020

Review Date: 09/13/2022



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Richard R. Desjardins, Director Brian R. Pellerin, Chair

Maine Criminal Justice Academy MCJA Board of Trustees