



# **Explosive Detection Certification**

**A canine team must consist of a commissioned law enforcement officer, working a canine for a law enforcement agency, with the responsibilities and duties of locating explosive devices.**

**OR**

**A private security firm with the responsibilities and duties of locating explosive devices that is in possession of a current ATF license. A copy of the current ATF license must be presented each time a team is to certify. The certification is not valid unless a current ATF license is on file with the NNDDA.**

**OR**

**A member of the Armed Forces, HLS, or DOJ with the responsibilities and duties of locating explosive devices for their department with a written letter of endorsement by the head administrator. A updated letter must be presented each time the team certify. The certification is not valid unless a current letter is on file with the NNDDA.**

**This test will determine the proficiency and reliability of a canine team in the detection of explosives.**

**No canine team will be dual certified in Narcotics and Explosives by the NNDDA**

**Canine teams will be tested on the follow basic odors:**

**Powders (black and smokeless)  
Commercial Dynamite or Ammonium Nitrate  
C-4 or Flex-X  
TNT or Military Dynamite  
Primer Cord  
Slurries or Water Gel**

**The canine team will be tested in the following environments:**

**Building  
Baggage  
Vehicles  
Open Area**

**Optional search areas will include, but not limited to:**

**Aircraft  
Watercraft  
Rail**

## **CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

**The certification will be a pass or fail conducted by an NNDDA Certifying Official authorized to conduct explosive detection team certifications. The team cannot miss more than one aid in the test environment, or exceed more than one false response in a test environment. If a team fails in a test environment they may be given the option to re-test in one environment only, if they have not failed in any other of the test environments combined.**

## WHAT CONSTITUTES A FAILURE

- 2 Misses in any of the test environment
- 2 False responses in any of the test environment
- 1 Miss in any two of the test environments
- 1 False responses in any two of the test environment

**Example:** a handler has two misses/false in any environment (for this example we will use the luggage environment) but has no misses/false in any of the other three test environments. The handler can request to be re-tested in the luggage environment. Any misses/false in the re-test luggage area constitutes a certification failure.

## GENERAL TERMS

### Team Miss

Is defined as any failure for a canine to alert on a hidden aid, or failure of the handler to recognize the response and call the alert. Walking the aid.

### False Response

Is defined as: A canine alerting at a non-hide location.

A handler calling an alert, even if the canine did not alert, at a non-hide location.

A canine alerting to fringe odor that the certifying official determines to be too far away from the actual hide location.

An aggressive alert by scratching, biting, or excessive nudging at the hide location. Attempts or retrieves the aid or the packaging concealing the aid.

Continual passive alerts such as sitting or pinpointing, looking at the handler for confirmation of a find at a non-hide location.

Ruling of the NNDDA Certifying Official is final.

The certification will be for the tested canine team only and valid for one year from date of issuance.

## PRECAUTIONS

The Certifying Official may call off an explosive certification for the following safety reasons including, but limited to:

weather  
unsafe environment  
aggressive canine alerts  
or smoking in the area.

## NO DETONATING DEVICES WILL BE PLACED WITH AIDS OR USED IN TESTING.

### AIDS:

The aids used in testing will be of a size and composition that would simulate what is generally found on the street with a minimum size of 1/4 pound and no maximum size. Each aid will be hidden twice during the testing. The handler will not be told how many aids are in the test environment.

All aids will be hidden in a manner to prevent direct contact by the canine.

The Certifying Official will provide all testing aids.

If for some reason the Certifying Official can not provide the aids, the Certifying Official will ensure that the aids provided:

- Have been kept separately from each other in different containers
- Are validated
- Are not contaminated

**TIME ISSUES:**

The Certification Official will place all aids in the search areas thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the certification. The 30-minute time limit starts after the last aid is hidden.

Prior to the start of the search the Certifying Official will explain the search boundaries of the test environment.

The canine team is allowed ample time to do a systematic search of the test environment to locate all hidden aids. The time should be consistent with the size of the area to be searched. The certifying official may call the search if the dog no longer shows competence and continued interest in working and in locating the aids.

The handler may terminate the search at any time it is felt the area has been successfully cleared.

The handler may request a break during the search if needed to refresh the canine.

The handler is required to identify and call out the canine's alert.

**BUILDING SEARCH TEST:**

The Certification Official will determine if the building selected will be of an appropriate test environment and may use discretion, using the below listed general outline, for the certification:

This building should have a minimum of five separate search areas with a minimum of 500 square feet and a maximum of 1500 square feet per area.

One or more search areas will have no aids hidden; the canine team will not be informed which areas are free of aids.

One search area will have a high find, no higher than six feet above ground level.

The aids should be properly spaced with the number of aids hidden consistent with the size of the search area.

**BAGGAGE SEARCH TEST:**

The Certification Official will determine if the baggage selected will be of an appropriate test environment and may use discretion, using the below listed general outline, for the certification:

Baggage is defined as suitcases, garment bags, briefcases, duffel bags, boxes, etc.

There should be a minimum of ten (10) articles and a maximum of twenty (20) articles to be searched.

The layout area will be consistent with the number of articles laid out to be searched with ample room between each article to allow the canine team to move around each article.

The number of aids hidden in the test environment should be consistent with the number of luggage, allowing proper spacing. All aids will be hidden inside the articles and the canine team will not be informed which articles are free of aids.

**VEHICLE SEARCH:**

The Certification Official will determine if the vehicles and parking area selected will be of an appropriate test environment and may use discretion, using the below listed general outline, for the certification:

There should be a minimum of five (5) vehicles with a maximum of ten (10) vehicles to be searched.

The parking area will be consistent with the number of vehicles to be searched with ample room between each vehicle to allow the canine team to move around each vehicle.

There should be interior and exterior finds, but no more than one aid will be hidden on each vehicle.

One or more vehicle(s) will have no hidden aids and the canine team will not be informed which vehicle(s) are

free of aids.

#### **OPEN AREA SEARCH:**

An open area is defined as:

Open Fields  
Wooded Area  
Large open lots

The Certification Official will determine if the open area selected will be of an appropriate test environment and may use discretion, using the below listed general outline, for the certification:

The open area should be a minimum of 1000 square feet with a maximum of 3000 square feet.

The number of aids hidden should be consistent with the search environment allowing ample room between aids to judge the searching ability of the canine team.

Aids may be placed no more than one (1) foot below the ground's surface and no more than six (6) feet above the ground; the canine team will not be informed which area(s) are free of aids.

#### **OPTIONAL AREA(s):**

The Certification Official will determine if the optional area selected will be of an appropriate test environment and may use discretion, using the below listed general outline, for the certification:

Availability will be the factor in the Optional Tests.

The search environment should include interior and exterior searches with the number of aids hidden consistent with the search environment allowing ample room between aids to judge the search ability of the canine team; the canine team will not be informed which area(s) are free of aids.

#### **AIRCRAFT**

Is defined as a standard wide body aircraft that would normally be searched for explosives. This aircraft should be no smaller than a 30 passenger plane. The number of aids hidden should be consistent with the size of the aircraft with no fewer than three aids hidden.

#### **WATERCRAFT**

Is defined as a large sea worthy vessel that would normally be searched for explosives. The number of aids hidden should be consistent with the size of the vessel with no fewer than three aids hidden.

#### **RAIL**

Is defined as no fewer than two railcars that would normally be searched for explosives. The number of aids hidden should be consistent with the number of cars with no fewer than three aids hidden.

Certification is valid for one calendar year. There will be a thirty days waiting period to attempt to certify again unless circumstances at the time of the certification has been determined by the certifying official to warrant another attempt. All rulings by the certifying official are final.

#### **CANINE PROGRAM VALIDATION/CERTIFICATION**

NNDDA will certify canine teams to a federal, state, or department standard. The team must submit a copy of the standard to the certifying official who must approve the standard prior to certifying the team. The standard must meet or exceed NNDDA Standards. The certifying official will attach a copy of the standard to the yellow certification sheet and retain it for future courtroom testimony. The certification will assist in validating other agencies' standards

## **TO BECOME A CERTIFYING OFFICIAL IN EXPLOSIVE DETECTION**

**To be eligible to be a certifying official, one MUST be a full time paid law enforcement officer, or corrections officer either local, state, federal. An applicant can not be in the business of selling police dogs. These two requirements will not be waived. A certifying official retains their certifying official status when they retire from law enforcement.**

**If you meet the above requirements there are several ways to be considered for an interview. An applicant must be a current member in good standing with NNDDA for the last three (3) years. Proof of certifications and/or expertise must add up to five years of experience in the selected field.**

**An applicant should show a need for a certifying official in this area, have written endorsement from a senior (4 year) explosive certification official with the NNDDA. An Applicant may produce written proof of five years of expertise with written endorsement from senior (4 year) explosive certification officials of the NNDDA, or NNDDA Board Member.**

**Applicant must produce written support for “Possessing the Explosive Aids” and certifying explosive detection canine team for the NNDDA from a department head of his or her agency on department letterhead.**

**Applicant must have in their possession the required explosive aids in the correct amounts, described in the NNDDA Standards, in order to certify canine teams to NNDDA Explosive Detection Standards. These aids can not be older than two years of issuance. A proof of replacement of aids must be submitted to the NNDDA Secretary every two years. Certifying Official will ensure that aids are stored/secured per ATF/Department Regulations**

**Applicant will request a certifying official packet from the Secretary of the NNDDA.**

**Applicant will complete the packet and return it to the Secretary of the NNDDA.**

**All information submitted will be validated by the NNDDA Board of Directors.**

**The Board will notify the applicant of the results.**

**Applicant must pass a formal interview with the NNDDA Board.**

**The Board will determine which seminar/certification the applicant must attend to work with a senior certifying official(s). That certifying official(s) will make a written recommendation to complete the process.**

**Each certifying official must ensure that they possess a current copy of NNDDA Certification Standards and certify to that standard.**

### **A CERTIFYING OFFICIAL MAY NOT CERTIFY A DOG HE/SHE HAS TRAINED THE FIRST TIME THE DOG TEAMS CERTIFY**

**A Certifying Official may be removed from certifying official status by a majority vote by the Board of Directors.**