

Evaluator Guidelines

Water cadaver teams shall re-certify every two years by successfully completing a re-certification test according to the re-certification policy.

The evaluation shall be conducted by a primary evaluator or associate evaluator. The evaluator must keep the role of the water search handler/dog team in mind, i.e. to be able to define a relatively small area or direction for the divers to search. Thus a precise location of the scent source is not required and often is not possible. The handler should be able to interpret the dog’s alert, significantly narrow down the search area, and recommend the area in which the divers should be deployed.

A scent source shall be used as defined in water cadaver search core sign-offs. The handler shall not know the location of the scent source.

Shore or Flowing Water Evaluation

The designated search area shall be the shore of quiet water or the banks of flowing water approximately 100 yards in length. The length of the search area may be split into no more than two sections, with the handler being advised of the area not included in the test. The evaluator should ensure that the problem is set up according to existing/expected wind conditions so that the problem is solvable by a competent water search team. The scent source shall be submerged, inaccessible to the dog, and not visible to dog or handler. The source shall be within 15 feet of the shoreline or bank.

The evaluation is allowed a maximum time of 30 minutes.

The handler should indicate the direction of the scent source based on the dog’s natural or trained alert(s), narrowing the line to be searched to a width of no more than approximately 35 feet. The evaluators are to take into account the weather and water conditions to determine what degree of precision is feasible for a given test.

Handler _____ **Dog** _____ **Location** _____

Shore or Flowing Water Re-Certification Evaluation

No.	Requirement	YES	NO	N/A
S1	The handler demonstrates appropriate safety precautions			
S2	The handler utilizes an appropriate strategy for existing conditions			
S3	The handler reads dog’s natural and/or trained alert(s)			
S4	The dog is not easily distracted			

Date: _____

Signature: _____