General Guidelines for Training, Certification, and Documentation of Canine Detection Disciplines

WHAT IS AN AAFS STANDARD FACTSHEET?

The AAFS produces clear, concise, and easy-to-understand factsheets to summarize the contents of technical and professional forensic science standards on the OSAC Registry. They are not intended to provide an interpretation for any portion of a published standard.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS STANDARD?

Canine teams have been used historically and found to be a valuable tool for scent and odor detection in many law enforcement and military applications. With the capabilities of detection canines expanding in many areas of investigative purpose, the number of detection disciplines is rapidly growing in demand, thus requiring a structured framework for maximum efficacy.

This standard serves as a baseline for general training and certification of canine protocols for general detection purposes in multiple canine detection disciplines. Discipline-specific requirements can be found within their respective standard, such as ANSI/ASB 024, 1st Ed. 2021; ANSI/ASB 026, 1st Ed. 2021; ANSI/ASB 027, 1st Ed. 2021; and ANSI/ASB 092, 1st Ed. 2021.

WHY IS THIS STANDARD IMPORTANT? WHAT ARE ITS BENEFITS?

Detection canines are used by law enforcement and the military for both forensic and security purposes. This standard promotes consistency in protocols across organizations utilizing canines from an array of distinctive areas of odor detection, thereby relieving the judicial system of conflicting protocols.

This standard is a consensus of subject matter expertise that defines the general protocols for training and certification of canines in any type of detection work.

HOW IS THIS STANDARD USED, AND WHAT ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS?

This standard sets forth a structured framework to be performed within each canine detection discipline to promote consistency. Divided into seven major sections, the standard covers: terms and definitions, canine team requirements (initial training of handler and canine), canine team assessments, canine team certifications, canine team maintenance training, training aid storage and handling, and canine team records/document management.

Minimum requirements are defined for the initial training of both the handler and canine and for a canine team assessment structure that includes pass/fail criteria. Certification requirements are delineated that include criteria for assessments, search environments, and evaluation.

The organization deploying the canine detection team should adapt the framework provided to represent and maximize the specific detection discipline's operational needs.