

Standard for Training and Certification of Canine Detection of Humans: Patrol Canine Team



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?

This standard provides requirements for training, certification, and documentation pertaining to patrol canine teams within the detector dog community. The goal is for the canine to detect and follow a target scent, starting from the last known position to its conclusion, while potentially identifying evidence left by the target by discriminating non-associated scent(s). This is intended for trails less than 24 hours old.

Canines used in this discipline are typically deployed in law enforcement and forensic investigative functions.

This standard is one of three in a series on Canine Detection of Humans. Also see [ANSI/ASB 024, 1st Ed., 2021](#) (location searches) and [ANSI/ASB 026, 1st Ed., 2021](#) (aged trails).

WHY IS THIS STANDARD IMPORTANT? WHAT ARE ITS BENEFITS?

Decades of subject matter expertise and peer-reviewed scientific studies were used to develop a singular standard that can be used as the foundation for canine training and certification protocols.

Adherence to the requirements outlined in this standard promotes patrol canine teams that consistently and reliably use search procedures to succeed at the required tasks.

This standard promotes consistency across organizations using patrol canine teams for searches and relieves the judicial system of conflicting protocols.



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

This standard serves as a baseline for the training of patrol canine teams. Organizations deploying patrol canine teams should adapt the required assessments to represent their traditional operational needs and relevant detection tasks.

Requirements for initial training; safety considerations; assessment types to include control, obedience, area, evidence, building, scent, and operational; certification; maintenance training; scent article storage and handling; and records and document management are specified in this standard.

For each assessment type (obedience, control, area, building, evidence, scent, and operational), the standard details minimum assessment parameters and the mandatory safety performance.

The canine team's documentation is the main source of data to determine the team's reliability in the judicial system. The minimum required documentation for the canine team's training, assessment, certification, and deployments are outlined within the standard.

The annex within the standard provides related references on human scent-related principles and theory to provide a foundational understanding of canine detection of humans.