

MAINE ASSOCIATION FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE

Search Dog Team Certification Standard Appendix A

Initial Certification or "Grandfathering" of Working SAR Dog Teams

I. Introduction

- A. A dog team certified as field-ready by its unit's training officer before acceptance of an applicable MASAR dog team certification standard may not be subject to the full certification process defined by that new standard.
- B. The MASAR Standards Committee, following review of an application for certification, shall do one of the following:
 - 1. Certify a team using the requirements below;
 - 2. Require additional testing of a team for certification, said tests to be selected by the committee from the new standard;
 - 3. Require full testing of a team using the new standard.
- C. A dog team certified under the provisions of this Appendix shall receive the full certification of the applicable MASAR standard.
- D. A dog team from outside the State of Maine may not have to meet MASAR standards for initial certification, but the standards to which these units train must be acceptable to the MASAR Standards Committee. The committee may decide to issue limited certification to such teams based on the degree to which their training or certification standards differ from the comparable MASAR standard.
- E. A dog team denied certification under this Appendix has the right to appeal the Standards Committee's decision only as defined in the applicable section of the MASAR Search Dog Team Certification Standard.

II. Applying for Initial Certification or "Grandfathering"

- A. If a unit has dog teams that it wishes to have considered for initial certification or "grandfathering" under a new Appendix of the MASAR Search Dog Team Certification Standard, it shall submit a list of these teams to the MASAR Standards Committee.
- B. A unit shall provide the documentation listed below for each dog team it wishes to have certified.
- C. Any unit requesting certification of member(s), which currently operates within the State of Maine, shall submit a written letter of recommendation from a Warden Service supervisor or above who has worked with the team(s) in question.
- D. A unit requesting certification of dog team(s), which does not have SAR experience in the State of Maine, shall submit written a letter of recommendation from the agency of their state or subdivision that has SAR responsibility in the unit's area of operation.

III. Minimum Testing Required for Certification

A unit shall provide the following for each dog team it wishes to have certified under a specific Appendix to the MASAR Search Dog Team Certification Standard:

- A. Documentation that the dog team has met the requirements of Part IV of the MASAR Search Dog Team Certification Standard.
- B. Proof that a dog has passed all of the tests in Section V, Part A, of the MASAR Search Dog Team Certification Standard.
- C. Proof that a dog team has passed one of the tests from the applicable Appendix to the MASAR Search Dog Team Certification Standard. The specific test shall be selected by the MASAR Standards Committee. The test shall be evaluated by a team approved in advance by the MASAR Standards Committee.