

Standard for Training and Certification of Canine Detection of Humans: Location Check Using Pre-scented Canines



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?

The detection of human scent in investigative processes is a valuable tool within canine detection applications.

This standard provides requirements for training, certification, and documentation pertaining to pre-scented canines conducting location checks. The goal of this detection discipline is for the canine to use a specific person's scent on a scent article to check a location. The canine will either follow an associated scent trail to this specific person or a location connected with this person while discriminating from all non-associated scent trails or to correctly demonstrate the absence of an associated scent trail.

This standard is one of three in a series on Canine Detection of Humans. Also see [ANSI/ASB 026, 1st Ed., 2021](#) (aged trails) and [ANSI/ASB 027, 1st Ed., 2021](#) (patrol canines).

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 canine teams that consistently and reliably perform location checks using pre-scented canines. During that check, they may or may not detect human scent.

This standard promotes consistency across organizations using pre-scented canines for location checks 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 canines pertaining to using pre-scented canines for location checks. Organizations deploying canine teams should adapt the required assessments to represent their traditional operational needs and relevant detection tasks.

Requirements for initial training, assessment, certification, maintenance training, scent article storage and handling, and records and document management are specified in this standard. This includes scent recognition assessments as well as operational assessments.

This standard defines the minimum search area parameters, including the number of location check sites, target trail age, trail dimensions, assessment time requirements, and positive and negative location check requirements.

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