

Relationship of Training and Testing Specifications (TTS) for the Basic Courses to State Law and POST Regulations

Definitions

Law: all the rules of conduct established and enforced by the authority, legislation, or custom of a given community, state or other group

California State law is enacted as a the result of the California legislative process

Regulation: a rule, ordinance, or law by which conduct, etc. is regulated

Procedure: 1) the act, method, or manner of proceeding in some action; esp., the sequence of steps to be followed 2) a particular course of action or way of doing something 3) the established way of carrying on the business of a legislature, law court, etc.

1. The authority for the Basic Courses can be found primarily in two Penal Code sections: Section 832.3 of the Penal Code states in part, "...any sheriff,...or deputy sheriff of a county, any police officer of a district authorized by statute to maintain a police department who is first employed after January 1, 1975, shall successfully complete a course of training prescribed by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training before exercising the powers of a peace officer..."

Peal Code section 13510 of the penal Code states in part, "...the commission also shall adopt, and may from time to time amend, rules establishing minimum standards for training of city police officers, peace officer members of county sheriff's offices, and marshals or deputy marshals of a municipal court..."

"These rules shall apply to those cities, counties, and districts receiving state aid pursuant to this chapter and shall be adopted and amended pursuant to Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340-11340.1) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code."

Authority for the establishment of the Regular Basic Course and authority for the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) to establish and make rules pertaining basic training can be found in the aforementioned penal code sections. The actual rules for the basic courses are found in the Government Code cited above.

2. POST regulations and procedures are established by the authority of Government Code section 11340 and those regulations set forth the standards for all basic training statewide. The regulations are created using a statewide minimum standard for all law enforcement departments who are voluntary member POST agencies.

The specific POST procedure that pertains to basic training can be found in section D-1 of the POST regulations and it establishes the authority for Training and Testing Specifications (TTS).

3. The TTS outlines in detail all of the course content for all peace officer basic courses. This includes the Regular Basic Course, all formats, the PC 832 Course, the Specialized Investigators Basic Course (SIBC), and the Requalification Course.

A modification to either the POST regulations and procedures or the TTS can have an impact on each other and can cause changes to either set of documents. When this occurs the affected regulation must by POST policy be reviewed by the State Office of Administrative Law (OAL).

4. Workshops are held by POST about once a month to review the TTS, student workbooks and the tests associated with those documents. The workshops are intended to focus on new and emerging trends and procedures and to add to the TTS and workbooks new legislative and legal updates.

Changes to the TTS can change some or all of the basic courses and can have an effect on POST regulations and procedures. Updated TTS changes are approved by the Commission and are reviewed by OAL before they are released to presenters of the basic courses.

5. All presenters have an opportunity to support and contribute to the workshop update process by sending Subject Matter Experts (SME's) to the workshop. Certified presenters receive TTS updates that are a result of the workshops.

6. Certified presenters of the basic courses are given TTS changes and they are obligated to update their Expanded Course Outlines (EOC). EOC's must be submitted to the POST Regional Training Manager for approval and a copy must be kept on file by the presenter. Certified presenters must teach the basic courses in accordance with the TTS and POST Regulations.

7. As a result of regulation, TTS changes and EOC updates presenters are required to create, update and maintain instructor lesson plans. Instructor lesson plans must include all agency specific material being taught in the basic courses and include all support material used for the class, ie: handouts, visual aids and other documentation. Presenters are required by POST policy (academy management guidelines) to keep all instructor lesson plans on file and produce them upon request by POST.

8. The TTS requires a number of written/cognitive tests associated with basic courses. These tests include Learning Domain tests, Mid Term examination, and Final Examination. If these examinations are in the TTS then they must by law be administered.

NOTE: Other tests are required by TTS but the written/cognitive examinations are the only ones supported by the test item bank. The other TTS examinations required by regulations are Scenario Tests and Exercise Tests.

9. The Test Review Panel is managed by a Personnel Selection Consultant who is assigned to the POST Standards and Evaluation Bureau. The Test Review Panel reviews all POST test items, sets pass points for each learning domain and creates test forms. The Test Review Panel brings all testing issues to the Academy Consortium for approval. A decision by the Test Review Panel or the Consortium could affect the TTS.

10. The POST test item bank supports the TTS. All of the items in the POST item bank are created by both POST and the SME group from the workbook update workshop.

11. The student workbooks are student text books but they are not required by law or regulation and they do not affect the TTS. However, each chapter outline in the workbook is a verbatim copy of the TTS. All test items are created from the material and content found in the student workbook and every answer to every test question is found in the workbook and referenced by an Educational Objective (EO) number.