



Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training

860 Stillwater Road
West Sacramento, CA 95605-1603
www.post.ca.gov

Date: May 15, 2020

Bulletin: No. 2020-25

Subject: **Temporary Suspension of the Requirement for Chemical Agent Exposure in Learning Domain 35 (Firearms/Chemical Agents) During Coronavirus (COVID-19) Emergency in POST Basic Courses**

POST is providing this bulletin with respect to the regulatory training mandates in the Training and Testing Specifications for Learning Domain 35 (Firearms/Chemical Agents) during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency.

On May 7, 2020, Governor Newsom granted POST emergency authority pursuant to the Emergency Services Act (Government Code 8550 et seq.) to allow the POST Executive Director to grant a temporary exception due to the disruption caused by COVID-19.

Due to heightened concerns of the potential for compromising the respiratory system of students and staff exposed to chemical agents and the risk of spreading COVID-19, POST has temporarily suspended the required learning activities which require each student be exposed to a non-lethal, riot control chemical and a non-lethal, aerosol chemical agents.

Presenters must continue to instruct all other training required in the Training and Testing Specifications for Learning Domain 35 (Attachment).

Questions regarding this bulletin may be directed to Staff Services Manager [Cheryl Smith](#).

MANUEL ALVAREZ, JR.
Executive Director

MA: cs

Attachment

**TRAINING AND TESTING
SPECIFICATIONS FOR LEARNING DOMAIN #35
FIREARMS/CHEMICAL AGENTS**

April 1, 2020

RBC	Other Basic Courses					Requal
	832	III	II	I	SIBC	
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X			X	X
X	X	X			X	X
X	X	X			X	X
X	X	X			X	X

I. LEARNING NEED

Peace officers must know and practice all procedures for the safe handling of all firearms while on and off duty.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- A. State the four fundamental rules of firearms safety
- B. Explain basic safety guidelines to be followed at a firing range
- C. Describe the safety precautions for proper storage of firearms

II. LEARNING NEED

Peace officers must know the workings, the capabilities, and limitations of firearms in order to operate them safely and effectively.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- A. Describe the basic information about a semiautomatic pistol and magazine, including:
 - 1. Primary components and their functions
 - 2. Steps for loading/unloading
 - 3. Steps for rendering the semiautomatic pistol safe

RBC	Other Basic Courses					Requal
	832	III	II	I	SIBC	
X	X	X			X	X
X	X	X			X	X
X	X	X			X	X
X	X	X			X	X
X			X		X	X
X			X		X	X
X			X		X	X
X			X		X	X
X	X	X	X		X	X
X	X	X	X		X	X
X	X	X	X		X	X
X			X		X	X

B. Describe the cycle of operation that takes place with each single pull of a semiautomatic pistol trigger

C. Describe the basic information about a revolver, including:

1. Primary components and their functions
2. Steps for loading/unloading
3. Steps for rendering the revolver safe

D. Describe the basic information about shotguns, including:

1. Advantages and limitations
2. Primary components and their functions
3. Steps for loading/unloading
4. Steps for rendering the shotgun safe

III. LEARNING NEED

Peace officers must know the capabilities and limitations of the ammunition they use in their firearms to operate them safely and effectively.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

A. State the guidelines for the safe handling of ammunition

B. Describe the primary components of firearm cartridges

C. Explain the chain of events that takes place when a projectile is discharged from a cartridge

D. Describe the primary components of a shotgun shell

RBC	Other Basic Courses					Requal
	832	III	II	I	SIBC	
X			X		X	X
X			X		X	X
X			X		X	X
X			X		X	X
X			X		X	X
X	X	X	X		X	X
X	X	X	X		X	X
X	X	X	X		X	X

- E. Define shot pattern as it relates to shotgun shells
- F. Explain the correlation to the distance traveled by the shot and the size of the shot pattern
- G. Describe the three ways shot placement can stop a threat, to include:
 1. Central nervous system
 2. Critical blood loss
 3. Psychological

IV. LEARNING NEED

Peace officers must know how to properly inspect, clean, and care for their firearms to ensure that they function safely and effectively.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- A. Describe the components that may prevent problems and that should be examined during a routine safety inspection
- B. Describe the materials, equipment, and environment needed to properly clean firearms
- C. Apply routine procedures for cleaning firearms

V. LEARNING NEED

Peace officers must comprehend and practice the fundamental skills of firing firearms to be effective in reactive and precision situations during live fire exercises.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

RBC	Other Basic Courses					Requal
	832	III	II	I	SIBC	
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X			X	X	X	X
X			X	X	X	X
X			X	X	X	X
X			X	X	X	X

- A. Apply the proper steps for drawing and holstering
- B. Demonstrate the following elements to accurately shoot a firearm:
 - 1. Grip
 - 2. Stance
 - 3. Breath control
 - 4. Sight alignment/sight picture
 - 5. Trigger control
 - 6. Follow-through
- C. Describe the types of malfunctions and demonstrate clearing methods for:
 - 1. Semiautomatic pistols
 - 2. Revolvers
 - 3. Shotguns
- D. Describe limitations officers may encounter when shooting under low light/nighttime conditions
- E. Describe conditions an officer may face when in a combat situation
- F. Describe possible physiological and psychological responses an officer may experience under the stress of a combat situation
- G. Explain steps officers can take to prepare themselves for the extreme stress of combat

VI. LEARNING NEED

Peace officers must know the terminology, capabilities, exposure symptoms, and decontamination procedures in order to safely and effectively handle and deploy chemical agents and gas masks.

RBC	Other Basic Courses					Requal
	832	III	II	I	SIBC	
X		X	X		X	X
X		X	X		X	X
X		X	X		X	X
X		X	X		X	X
X		X	X		X	X
X			X		X	X
X			X		X	X
X			X		X	X
X			X		X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- A. State the statutory requirements for the possession and use of chemical agents
- B. Describe four methods used to deploy chemical agents
- C. Describe environmental and physical conditions that can impact the effectiveness of a chemical agent
- D. State the guidelines for safely carrying, drawing, and deploying hand-held canisters of chemical agents
- E. Apply decontamination procedures that should be followed after a chemical agent has been used
- F. Discuss the physiological and psychological effects of each of the following chemical agents used by peace officers:
 - 1. OC (oleoresin capsicum)
 - 2. CN (chloroacetophenone)
 - 3. CS (ortho-chlorobenzylidene-molonitrile)
- G. Demonstrate proper procedures peace officers should follow when using gas masks, to include:
 - 1. Inspection and proper fit
 - 2. Cleaning and storage

VII. REQUIRED TESTS

Exercise testing is mandated and regulated by POST Commission Procedure D-1, which states:

Academies/presenters shall provide the following to students who fail a required exercise test on the first attempt:

RBC	Other Basic Courses					Requal
	832	III	II	I	SIBC	
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X			X	X	X	X
X			X	X	X	X
X			X	X	X	X

- An opportunity to review their test results
- A reasonable amount of time, as determined by the academy/presenter, to prepare for a retest
- An opportunity to be retested on the failed test, if the student fails the second test, the student fails the course

Required exercise testing for each format of the basic course is set forth in the Training and Testing Specifications (TTS). The student is required to successfully pass each exercise test outlined below for the specific course of instruction the student is enrolled in.

FIREARMS SAFETY

All firearms exercise testing must be conducted under written academy/presenter safety procedures and or protocols established in accordance with the POST safety guidelines. Students are required to comply with every aspect of presenter safety procedures and or protocols during firearms training and testing.

- A. An **exercise test** that requires a student to demonstrate competency in **combat** shooting principles and tactics using a handgun, while wearing body armor and duty equipment, under **daylight** conditions on a **combat** course of fire.

The course of fire must simulate the physical and mental stress that would be most nearly created by actual field **combat** situations. The test will minimally include threat assessment, multiple targets, left and right shooting positions using cover and concealment, and multiple shooting positions .

The student is required to fire a minimum of 30 rounds of service ammunition using a presenter approved service handgun, with acceptable accuracy standards and under time restrictions established by the presenter.

RBC	Other Basic Courses					Requal
	832	III	II	I	SIBC	
	X	X				
	X	X				
	X	X				
	X	X				
	X	X				
X			X		X	
X			X		X	
X			X		X	
X			X		X	
X	X	X			X	X
X	X	X			X	X

2. Mechanical Functions
3. Manipulations
4. Basic Shooting Principles
5. Accuracy

Presenters must use the POST-developed PC832/Module III Firearms Competency Exercise Test Form or a presenter-developed form approved by POST, which minimally includes the performance dimensions used for this exercise test.

VIII. REQUIRED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

~~A. Each student will participate in a simulation that requires exposure to a non-lethal, riot control chemical agent. The simulation must involve the following:~~

- ~~1. Exposure to a non-lethal, riot control chemical agent~~
- ~~2. Proper use of a gas mask including the pre-inspection, fitting and clearing of the mask~~
- ~~3. Decontamination techniques~~

~~B. Each student will participate in a simulation that requires exposure to a non-lethal, aerosol chemical agent. The simulation must involve the following:~~

- ~~1. Exposure to a non-lethal, aerosol chemical agent~~
- ~~2. Proper care, maintenance and deployment of a non-lethal, aerosol chemical agent~~
- ~~3. Decontamination techniques~~

C. Each student will participate in a learning activity designed to reinforce the ability to manipulate their assigned firearm.

If the firearm is a semiautomatic pistol, the learning activity shall minimally include the following techniques to safely and effectively manipulate the semiautomatic pistol in both the left and right hand:

1. Render the weapon safe
2. Release slide

RBC	Other Basic Courses					Requal
	832	III	II	I	SIBC	
X			X		X	X
X			X		X	X
X			X		X	X
X			X		X	X
72	24	28	44	12	72	20

E. The student will participate in a learning activity to reinforce the ability to safely and effectively manipulate a shotgun. The activity shall minimally include techniques to:

1. Open the shotgun action and check for rounds
2. Inspect the functioning of the firing mechanism
3. Load and unload the shotgun properly when a round has been chambered
4. Load and unload the shotgun when no round is chambered and the weapon is cocked and uncocked

IX. HOURLY REQUIREMENTS

Students shall be provided with a minimum number of instructional hours on firearms/chemical agents.

X. ORIGINATION DATE

January 1, 2001

XI. REVISION DATE

January 1, 2004
 July 1, 2005
 January 1, 2006
 January 19, 2007

July 1, 2008
 January 1, 2009
 July 1, 2009
 January 1, 2010

July 1, 2010
 July 1, 2011
 August 1, 2013
 April 1, 2020