

Evaluator Guidelines

The scent matching qualification test demonstrates the ability of the dog team to match two scents in a controlled setting.

Teams shall be field qualified in area search or trailing prior to taking the scent matching qualification test. Teams shall have completed the scent matching preliminary requirements before taking the test. There shall be one SWSD primary evaluator for the test.

The test shall consist of four gauze pads or other articles with human scent, similar to one another, on the ground. All four scent items shall have human scent (each one from a different source), but only one shall be a match. The items shall be placed so that they cannot be moved by the wind. The handler shall describe the dog's trained and natural alerts, and the dog shall alert as described at the matching item to pass the test. The scent item used to give the dog the scent to match shall be a gauze pad or other article with human scent presented in a bag (item shall not be touched by handler).

The team is allowed five minutes maximum to complete the test.

This test shall also serve as the re-certification test, which must be taken every 2 years according to the re-certification policy.

Southwest Search Dogs (SWSD) Scent Matching Qualification Test and Bi-Annual Re-Certification Test

Handler _____ Dog _____ Location _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____