

# **FIREARMS QUALIFICATION & TRAINING -- HANDGUNS 9453**

(No.26 June 2016)

## **QUALIFICATION**

Handgun qualification courses are intended to test the proficiency of CAL FIRE peace officers in the handling, reloading and shooting of handguns to provide for the safety of the public and CAL FIRE personnel. The firearms instructor having charge of the range will have the option to choose the qualification course desired and is encouraged to rotate approved courses from one planned qualification day to the next.

Officers must qualify with the various handgun(s) and handgun retention systems they have been issued or intend to use. This shall be documented upon the Individual Firearms Qualification Record.

CAL FIRE peace officers shall qualify with their State-issued handgun(s) twice per year, with one qualification occurring between January 1 – June 30 and another occurring between July 1 – December 31. At least one of these qualifications shall be a low light qualification.

CAL FIRE peace officers who have been authorized to carry a personally owned specialized handgun, back-up handgun, or who choose to carry an alternative handgun off duty shall qualify with those handguns once per year during a daytime or low light qualification.

## **TRAINING**

Handgun training is used to develop officer skill and proficiency with the various handgun(s) and handgun retention systems they have been issued or intend to use. Qualification courses can be used as training; however, the firearms instructor having charge of the range may develop alternative courses to assist in developing necessary skills.

CAL FIRE peace officers shall attend and participate in handgun training, with at least their primary State issued handgun (and authorized back-up handgun), once per quarter. During handgun training, the officer need not shoot a qualification course, but may do so at the option of the firearms instructor having charge of the range. Officers are encouraged to participate in these training opportunities with the various handgun(s) and handgun retention systems they have been issued or intend to utilize.

Range days shall be scheduled at least once each quarter:

January 1 - March 31

April 1 - June 30

July 1 - September 30

October 1 - December 31

Range days may be scheduled on a more frequent basis at the discretion of the firearms instructor designated by the Unit, Region, Academy or Law Enforcement Program. Monthly range days are recommended to facilitate qualifications and handgun training. Officers are encouraged to attend as many range days as possible to improve upon their handling, reloading and shooting skills.

## **RANGE SAFETY**

**9453.1**

(No.26 June 2016)

All persons participating in handgun training and qualification shooting, and within 50 yards of a firing point, shall wear hearing protection and wear a brimmed or baseball style cap. This includes the firearms instructor(s), students/officers, and spectators.

All persons participating in handgun training and qualification shooting, present upon the range, shall wear body armor consistent with Handbook Section 9457.1

All shooters shall wear eye protection.

The firearms instructor(s) will conduct a range safety briefing (documented upon an IIPP6) and an equipment safety check prior to conducting any live firing. Handguns should be checked for obstructions and function (i.e. slide lock, safety, hammer, action cycle, and trigger (including sear reset)).

## **HANDGUN QUALIFICATION COURSES**

**9453.1**

(No.26 June 2016)

The course fired for official score shall consist of one of the courses outlined in this section.

All qualifications and training shall use ammunition consistent with Handbook Section 9456.4.

Reloading must be from the location where magazines/speed loaders are normally carried.

B27/B21 type targets or equivalents shall be utilized.

All qualification courses can be used for both revolvers and semiautomatic handguns.

All qualification courses can be used for low light shooting. "Low light" is defined as subdued light with target still identifiable to the shooter. Use of a flashlight is optional.

The firearms instructor having charge of the range may choose to change the sequence of fire within approved courses. The firearms instructor may also choose to change the firing position (standing, kneeling, prone) or add additional targets for each shooter.

**QUALIFICATION COURSE 'A'**  
(No.26 June 2016)

**9453.1.1**

**7-YARD LINE -- Total 13 Rounds -- 35 Seconds**

Upon command, draw and fire 13 rounds at the target. Reload, if necessary, and holster a loaded weapon.

**5-YARD LINE -- Total 6 Rounds -- 20 Seconds**

Upon command, draw and fire 3 rounds at the target, 2 rounds at the center of mass (torso) and the third round to the head ("failure drill"). Stand at low ready and scan. Upon command, fire 3 more rounds at the target, 2 rounds at the center of mass (torso) and the third round to the head. Reload, if necessary, and holster a loaded weapon.

**7-YARD WALK & DRAW -- Total 6 Rounds -- 15 Seconds**

Beginning at the seven-yard line, on command, walk forward. Upon command, draw and fire 6 rounds at the target. Reload and holster a loaded weapon.

**15-YARD LINE -- Total 12 Rounds -- 40 Seconds**

Cover or mark target so only ½ of the target area is visible or otherwise identified. Target can be split either vertically or horizontally, as directed by the firearms instructor. This is intended to simulate a barricaded subject seeking cover.

On command, draw and fire 12 rounds at the exposed portion of the target. Reload and holster a loaded weapon.

**25-YARD LINE -- Total 18 Rounds -- 60 Seconds**

Upon command, assume a kneeling position, draw and fire 6 rounds strong-hand at the target. Stand and fire 6 rounds strong-hand, switch the weapon to the opposite hand and fire 6 rounds, at the target. Holster a loaded weapon.

## **QUALIFICATION COURSE 'B'** (No.26 June 2016)

**9453.1.2**

### **25-YARD LINE -- Total 12 Rounds -- 60 Seconds**

Starting at the 50-yard line, the shooter, on command, will sprint to the 25-yard line. The shooter will draw the weapon, and on a threat command, fire 6 rounds, switch the weapon to the opposite hand, and fire 6 rounds at the target. Reload, if necessary and holster a loaded weapon.

### **15-YARD LINE --Total 12 Rounds -- 40 Seconds**

Cover or mark target so only ½ of the target area is visible or otherwise identified. Target can be split either vertically or horizontally, as directed by the firearms instructor. This is intended to simulate a barricaded subject seeking cover.

On command, draw and fire 12 rounds at the exposed portion of the target. Reload and holster a loaded weapon. On command, move forward and expose the entire target outline if necessary.

### **10-YARD WALK AND DRAW -- Total 6 Rounds -- 15 Seconds**

Beginning at the 10-yard line, on command, walk forward. Upon command, draw and fire 6 rounds at the target. Reload and holster a loaded weapon.

### **7-YARD LINE COMBAT DRAWING -- Total 12 Rounds -- Timed Shooting**

Firing will be conducted in 3 timed sequences. All rounds will be fired at a single target. The officer may administratively load a full magazine prior to this course of fire.

Upon command, the shooter will draw and fire 3 rounds in 3 seconds. Holster a loaded weapon, and wait for firearms instructor commands. Upon command, the shooter will again draw and fire 4 rounds in 4 seconds. Reload if necessary, holster a loaded weapon, and wait for firearms instructor commands. Upon command, the shooter will again draw and fire 5 rounds in 5 seconds. Holster a loaded weapon.

### **3-YARD LINE CLOSE-IN COMBAT SHOOTING -- Total 8 Rounds -- Timed Shooting**

The officer may administratively load a full magazine prior to this course of fire.

Upon command, the shooter will draw and fire 2 rounds in 3 seconds at the target. Holster a loaded weapon and wait for firearms instructor commands. Upon command, the shooter will draw and fire 2 rounds in 3 seconds at the target. Holster a loaded weapon and wait for firearms instructor commands. Upon command, the shooter will draw and fire 4 rounds at the target in 5 seconds. Reload if necessary, and holster a loaded weapon.

**QUALIFICATION COURSE 'C'**  
(No.26 June 2016)

**9453.1.3**

**3-YARD LINE CLOSE-IN COMBAT SHOOTING -- Total 4 Rounds -- Timed shooting**

Upon command, the shooter will draw and fire 2 rounds in 2 seconds at the target. Holster a loaded weapon and wait for firearms instructor commands. Upon command, the shooter will draw and fire 2 rounds in 2 seconds at the target. Holster a loaded weapon

Note: At the discretion of the firearms instructor, holstering between commands may be substituted with having the shooters maintain a “low ready” position between the first and second commands.

**7-YARD LINE COMBAT SHOOTING -- Total 14 Rounds -- Timed Shooting**

Upon command, the shooter will draw and fire 2 rounds at the target in 2 seconds, and come to the “low ready” position. Upon command, the shooter will fire 3 rounds in 3 seconds at the target, 2 rounds at the center of mass (torso) and the third round to the head (“failure drill”). Reload if necessary, holster a loaded weapon, and wait for firearms instructor commands.

Upon command, the shooter will draw and fire 3 rounds in 3 seconds at the target and come to the “low ready” position. Upon command, the shooter will fire 3 rounds in 3 seconds at the target, 2 rounds at the center of mass (torso) and the third round to the head (“failure drill”). Reload if necessary and holster a loaded weapon.

Upon command, the shooter will draw and fire 3 rounds at target in 3 seconds. Reload if necessary and holster a loaded weapon.

**15-YARD LINE TACTICAL SHOOTING -- Total 6 Rounds -- 15 Seconds**

Upon command, draw and fire 3 rounds at the target. Kneel and perform a tactical reload. Move the weapon to the opposite hand and fire 3 more rounds at the target.

**25-YARD LINE -- Total 6 Rounds -- 18 Seconds**

Upon command, draw and fire 3 rounds at the target, kneel and fire 3 more rounds at the target. Reload if necessary and holster a loaded weapon.

## **QUALIFICATION COURSE “D”**

**9453.1.4**

(No.26 June 2016)

### **15 YARD LINE – Total 10 rounds – 40 seconds**

On command, fire 10 rounds at the target, performing at least one reload during the course of fire (if necessary). Reload and secure a loaded weapon.

### **10 YARD LINE – Total 10 rounds – 30 seconds**

On command, fire 10 rounds at the target, performing at least one reload during the course of fire (if necessary). Reload and secure a loaded weapon.

### **5 YARD LINE – Total 5 rounds – 10 seconds**

On command, fire 5 rounds at the target. Reload (if necessary) and secure a loaded weapon.

### **3 YARD LINE – Total 5 rounds – 5 seconds**

On command, fire 5 rounds at the target. Reload and secure a loaded weapon.

## **QUALIFICATION COURSE “E”**

**9453.1.5**

(No.26 June 2016)

### **25 YARD LINE -- Total 12 Rounds -- 60 Seconds**

On command, assume a tactical position (firearm instructor will pick the position, i.e. prone, kneeling, standing, barricade, etc). Fire 12 rounds at the target and reload as necessary. Utilize cover when reloading.

### **15 YARD LINE – Total 12 Rounds (6 Strong/ 6 Opposite Hand) – 35 Seconds**

On command, run from the 25 to the 15 yard line. All weapons will remain holstered while running. From the standing position draw and fire 6 rounds at the target. Switch the handgun to the opposite hand and fire 6 rounds at the target. Reload as necessary, utilizing cover and holster a loaded weapon.

### **7 YARD LINE –Total 12 Rounds – Timed Shooting**

Upon command, draw and fire, 3 rounds, 2 rounds at the center of mass (torso) and the third round to the head (“failure drill”), in 3 seconds and come to the “low ready” position. Repeat 3 additional times (total of 4 times), reloading as necessary and holstering a loaded weapon at the completion.

### **7 YARD LINE – Total 6 Rounds – Timed Shooting**

On command, draw and fire 3 rounds in 3 seconds at the target. Hold on the target and reload as necessary. On command, fire an additional 3 rounds in 3 seconds at the target. Reload if necessary and holster a loaded weapon.

### **7 YARD LINE – Total 6 Rounds – 6 Seconds**

A total of three targets will be set-up with one, two, or three of them posing deadly threat. Fire a total of 6 rounds at the target(s) in the order of threat perceived by the officer. Reload if necessary and holster a loaded weapon.

## **QUALIFICATION COURSE “F”**

**9453.1.6**

(No.26 June 2016)

### **15 YARD LINE – Total of 12 Rounds – 60 Seconds**

On command, run from the 25 yard to the 15 yard line, then assume a tactical position (firearm instructor will pick the position, i.e. prone, kneeling, standing, barricade, etc). All weapons will remain holstered while running. Upon command, fire 12 rounds at the target, reloading as necessary utilizing cover and holster a loaded weapon.

### **7 YARD LINE –Total 12 Rounds – Timed Shooting**

On command, draw and fire, 3 rounds, 2 rounds at the center of mass (torso) and the third round to the head (“failure drill”), in 3 seconds and come to the “low ready” position. Repeat 3 additional times (total of 4 times), reloading as necessary and holstering a loaded weapon at the completion.

### **7 YARD LINE – Total 6 Rounds – Timed Shooting**

On command, draw and fire 3 rounds in 3 seconds at the target. Hold on the target and reload as necessary. On command, fire an additional 3 rounds in 3 seconds at the target. Reload if necessary and holster a loaded weapon.

### **7 YARD LINE – Total 6 Rounds – 6 Seconds**

A total of three targets will be set-up with one, two, or three of them posing deadly threat. Fire a total of 6 rounds at the target(s) in the order of threat perceived by the officer. Reload if necessary and holster a loaded weapon.

## **SCORING**

**9453.1.7**

(No.26 June 2016)

All scoring shall be done at the completion of the qualification course at the command of the firearms instructor, once the instructor has confirmed all weapons have been safely secured.

A hit is defined as anything in the scoring area of the target. Officers shall achieve a total score of 80% to qualify based on the number of hits out of the total number of rounds fired.

## **FAILURE TO QUALIFY**

**9453.2**

(No.26 June 2016)

Officers who fail the weapons qualification course will not carry the handgun with which they have failed, other than for retraining purposes, until they have re-qualified.

The firearms instructor will give written notice to all officers that fail the qualification course. Officers shall provide a copy of the written notice to their respective supervisor, notifying them of their inability to carry the handgun with which they have failed, other than for retraining purposes, until they have re-qualified.

## **FAILURE TO MAINTAIN QUALIFICATIONS**

**9453.3**

(No.26 June 2016)

Officers who fail to maintain qualifications during a qualification period will be notified in writing by their Unit or Staff Chief. Officers at the rank of Unit or Staff Chief and above who fail to qualify, will be notified in writing by their immediate supervisor. The officer will not carry their weapon, other than for retraining purposes, until they have qualified ([See Failure to Maintain Qualifications Memo](#)). Copies of the notice will be provided to the Unit Fire Prevention Bureau Chief, Region Law Enforcement Coordinator or Deputy Chief of Law Enforcement, depending on the officer's assigned location.

Unit and Staff Chiefs are responsible for ensuring that all peace officers assigned to their Unit/Program maintain qualifications. Region Chiefs and Deputy Directors are responsible for ensuring all peace officers at and above the rank of Unit or Staff Chief, assigned to their Regions/Programs, maintain qualifications. Failure to maintain qualifications will result in appropriate administrative action being taken against the officer.

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