

**International Standards for  
Impaired Driving Enforcement Programs  
(DRE, SFST, ARIDE)**



**A Product of**

**The DEC Program Technical Advisory Panel of  
the International Association of Chiefs of Police**

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**Use of the Masculine Pronoun in this Document**

“He,” “him,” and “his” are used throughout this document wherever a singular pronoun is required to refer to either the male or female gender. This is to avoid awkward phrasing such as “he/she” or the inaccurate use of the plural pronoun “they” or “them” when used with a singular verb.

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## Preface

This document is a combination of the three (3) international standards for impaired driving programs; Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) (commonly called Drug Recognition Expert (DRE)), Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST), and Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE).

## **REVIEW / APPROVAL OF TRAINING CURRICULA FOR IMPAIRED DRIVING PROGRAMS**

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and IACP have developed a course of instruction to train police officers in the techniques of removing impaired drivers from our roadways. These training courses have been adopted by the IACP as the minimum training requirements for training and certification courses (i.e., for SFST and SFST instructors, ARIDE, and DRE and DRE instructors).

The IACP, in cooperation with NHTSA, oversees the operation and development of the Standardized Field Sobriety Testing, Advance Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement, and Drug Evaluation and Classification Program. A Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) has been established to maintain the highest standards of the programs. This panel's responsibilities include reviewing proposed alternative training programs to determine whether or not the course content and learning objectives are consistent with approved standards.

Organizations wishing to submit proposed training curricula for review and approval as equivalent programs for the purpose of training persons in the detection and removal of impaired drivers shall submit lesson plans, visual aids, and any other required materials to the IACP. The IACP staff will submit the proposed course to the TAP for evaluation. Courses that meet applicable standards and learning objectives shall be equivalent.

A Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Condensed Instructor Development Course (IDC) has been established. This course is designed to train DREs who have successfully completed a NHTSA/IACP approved DWI Detection and Standardized Field Sobriety (SFST) Instructor Development Course (IDC) to teach the DREs to be instructors.

States desiring to develop and utilize a Standardized Field Sobriety Test (SFST) Condensed Instructor Development Course (IDC) or utilize the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Condensed Instructor Development Course (IDC) in conjunction with their state's established Basic Instructor Development (BID) training, shall send a notification to the IACP each January. The notification shall attest that the state's BID training objectives include all SFST IDC or DRE IDC curriculum learning objectives that have been removed from the full 40-hour IDC training curriculum. The IACP staff will submit the notification and verification to the TAP for review and documentation of those states utilizing an SFST Condensed IDC or DRE Condensed IDC training curriculum in conjunction with the state's BID curriculum. For assistance to the states, a form letter has been developed and is available from the IACP to assist in the review process of the state's BID content and to aid in the annual notification requirement.

## **Definitions**

### **ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR:**

A person not certified as a DRE instructor but who possesses knowledge, expertise, or credentials deemed valuable to the program and is thereby designated as an adjunct instructor for the Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) Program.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE EXTENSION:**

A pre-approved recertification extension for submission of recertification paperwork given to a DRE by the DEC Program state coordinator, not to exceed the limits established in Rule 5.1. This period does not automatically extend the time a DRE is considered "Active." Replaces the term "grace period" used in previous versions of the standards.

### **ADVANCED ROADSIDE IMPAIRED DRIVING ENFORCEMENT (ARIDE):**

The Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) program was developed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) with input from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) and the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police. ARIDE is a 16-hour training program created to address the gap in training between the Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) and the Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) programs.

### **BLOOD OR BREATH ALCOHOL CONCENTRATION (BAC):**

A measurement that indicates the grams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of a person's blood or 210 liters of his breath. For example, a BAC of 0.08% means that there are 80 milligrams of alcohol in 100 milliliters of the person's blood.

### **CANDIDATE DRE:**

An individual in the process of achieving certification, through the state coordinator, as a DRE. To achieve certification, a person must successfully complete a training program consisting of the following:

- A NHTSA/IACP approved SFST training course
- A two-day NHTSA/IACP approved DRE Preschool or equivalent
- A seven-day NHTSA/IACP approved DRE School
- On-the-job field certification

### **CANDIDATE DRE INSTRUCTOR:**

A certified DRE in the process of achieving certification, through the state coordinator, as a DRE instructor. To achieve certification, a DRE must successfully complete the NHTSA/IACP approved DRE Instructor Development Course (IDC), conduct a minimum of two hours of DRE training, and witness two drug evaluations.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The only courses receiving credentialing under the auspices of IACP are the training requirements for DRE and DRE instructors. The remaining NHTSA/IACP impaired driving curriculum courses (i.e., Standardized Field Sobriety Testing, Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement) have approved curriculum, but the attendees receive no certification or credentials from NHTSA or the IACP upon completion. DREs are certified by the DRE state coordinator. Any certification status for SFST or ARIDE is from the state or agency level.

**COURSE MANAGER:**

(DRE Schools) An individual, preferably a DRE instructor with the approval of the state coordinator, who has completed the IACP/NHTSA Course Manager training, who ensures that each training event follows the standardized curriculum and evaluates the training event. The course manager represents NHTSA and the IACP and resolves issues with the training's content and/or delivery.

(SFST and ARIDE) An individual who ensures that each training event follows the standardized curriculum and evaluates the training event. The course manager represents NHTSA and the IACP and resolves issues with the training's content and/or delivery.

**CREDENTIALING:**

The IACP maintains an international credentialing registry for DREs who have been certified by their state coordinators. The IACP also provides credentialing documents that verify the DRE's certification.

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCY:**

For purposes of these standards, a criminal justice agency is any organization, funded by public monies, that is involved in the apprehension, prosecution, and adjudication of public miscreants; or in the incarceration, detention, supervision, or control of said miscreants following apprehension, prosecution, and/or adjudication.

**DEACTIVATION:**

An action initiated by a DEC state coordinator to remove a DRE's instructor status: or an action initiated by a DRE or DRE instructor requesting deactivation from the DEC Program. To be deactivated, the individual needs to be actively certified at that time.

**DECERTIFICATION:**

Decertification shall be initiated by the state coordinator when a DRE or DRE instructor fails to meet minimum standards and requirements for certification or recertification, or any conditions in Section IV (Standards for Decertification or Deactivation of Drug Recognition Experts and Instructors) are identified, or when the DRE has been in an expired status for over one (1) year.

**DEC PROGRAM COORDINATORS:**

A **state coordinator** is selected by a state's Governor's Highway Safety Office, or the equivalent, and designated to act as the statewide coordinator for the DEC Program. The duties and responsibilities of the position are listed in Section VII ("Standards for the State DEC Program Coordinator") and in the "Guidelines for State Coordinators." If a state coordinator is not designated within a particular state, the IACP Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) regional DEC Program coordinator shall serve as that state's coordinator.

An **agency coordinator** may be designated within his department or agency and be responsible for maintaining program records, ensuring the maintenance of program standards, and conducting training and certification sessions within the agency. Responsibility for this function may rest with one individual, in the case of a small or closely coordinated effort or may be decentralized among several people throughout the agency. If an agency coordinator is not designated, the state DEC Program coordinator shall serve as that agency's DEC Program coordinator.

A **state's regional coordinator** – the state coordinator may designate one or more DREs within the state to support the DEC program. Tasks may include but are not limited to assistance with certification and recertifications, maintaining program records, ensuring maintenance of program standards, and conducting training and certification sessions.

A **TAP regional coordinator** - one DRE from each of the three regions, as established by the IACP Drug Recognition Expert Section, is appointed by the chair of the IACP Technical Advisory Panel to provide assistance to the state coordinators.

**DRE APPRENTICE INSTRUCTOR:**

A certified DRE, who is not a DRE instructor, and does not possess specialized skills beyond DRE training to be considered an adjunct instructor, with the approval of the DEC state coordinator, co-teaching with a certified DRE instructor, in the delivery of an ARIDE class, for evaluation of the DRE's teaching skills and abilities prior to the DRE becoming a DRE instructor candidate. The DRE must have previously completed the SFST IDC training or equivalent state basic instructor development (BID) training on adult teaching concepts. **(A DRE Apprentice Instructor cannot be utilized in the delivery of the DRE classroom training.)**

**DRE INSTRUCTOR:**

A trained and certified DRE who has received further training and experience instructing within the DEC Program and who has successfully completed the NHTSA/IACP DRE Instructor Development Course (IDC) or an approved equivalent. A DRE Instructor is qualified to teach SFST and ARIDE based upon the qualification as a DRE Instructor.

**DRUG:**

Any substance that, when taken into the human body, can impair the ability of the person to operate a vehicle safely.

**DRUG INFLUENCE EVALUATION:**

A process of systematically examining a person suspected of being under the influence of a drug, for the purpose of ascertaining what category of drugs (or combination of categories) is causing that person's impairment. A trained DRE can identify, with a high degree of reliability, the distinguishing signs and symptoms of seven broad categories of drugs.

**DRUGrecognition EXPERT (DRE):**

An individual who has successfully completed all phases of the DRE training requirements for certification established by the IACP and NHTSA and who has been approved for certification by the state coordinator for the state wherein they have law enforcement jurisdiction or within their primary state of employment. The word "evaluator," "technician," or similar words may be used as a substitute for "expert," depending upon locale or jurisdiction.

**FORENSIC TESTING**

Forensic testing, as used within the DEC Program, refers to the use of approved methods of collecting and testing various biological specimens for the presence of drugs. The methods can include but are not limited to, blood, urine, and oral testing instruments and devices. The testing methods and devices used must be approved by the laboratory(s) and should be capable of identifying a wide range of impairment-causing drugs. On-site testing devices will only be approved for field certifications and must be approved by the state laboratory for that purpose.

**GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE:**

A state agency, or the equivalent, that appoints the state DEC Program coordinator.

**HORIZONTAL GAZE NYSTAGMUS (HGN):**

An involuntary jerking of the eyes, occurring as the eyes gaze towards the side.

**IACP STAFF:**

With grant assistance from NHTSA, the IACP has agreed to develop standards and assist in managing the certification process for the DEC Program. As part of this agreement, the IACP performs necessary staff and coordination functions for the program, such as maintaining the DEC Program certification registry and issuing certification credentials.

**IMPAIRMENT:**

One of the several terms used to describe the degradation of mental and/or physical abilities necessary for safely operating a vehicle.

**IMPLIED CONSENT:**

Every state has enacted a version of an Implied Consent Law, which serves to encourage persons arrested for DWI to submit to a chemical test to determine blood alcohol content. Many states also allow for the testing of blood, breath, or urine for the presence of drugs and/or alcohol. The concept of implied consent is that the state views the suspect as already having agreed to take the test as a condition of operating a vehicle in the state. The law further provides that if the

arrestee refuses the test, his driver's license will be suspended or revoked.

**INACTIVE (EXPIRED) DRE CERTIFICATION:**

A DRE's certification is in an expired status when the DRE has not completed the requirements for recertification by the expiration date issued by the IACP. There may be circumstances where a DRE's certification has expired, and all requirements for recertification have not been completed. If the inactive status is within one year past the expiration date as credentialed by the IACP, the DRE can be recertified by completing all requirements for recertification. The word "evaluator," "technician," or a similar word may be used as a substitute for "expert," depending upon locale or jurisdiction.

**INSTITUTION:**

An entity receiving funding from federal agencies, IACP, or the State Office of Traffic or Highway Safety for instruction or research of the DEC or SFST curriculum; or state P.O.S.T. recognized training academy.

**INSTRUCTOR TRAINER:**

An experienced DRE instructor who conducts instructor training courses. The trainer must be knowledgeable of and have audited all phases of the training within the DEC Program and must be fully conversant with the participant and instructor manuals.

**INTOXICATION:**

One of the several terms used to describe the degradation of mental and/or motor skills and other faculties due to the use of alcohol or other drugs.

**NHTSA:**

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, within the United States Department of Transportation, that exercises primary responsibility for coordinating federal efforts to ensure the safe design and operation of motor vehicles.

**ON-SITE TESTING DEVICE:**

Any device used for testing of bodily fluids such as blood, urine, or saliva for the purpose of determining the category or categories of drug/s affecting the subject being evaluated. Any devices used should be supported by the state coordinator and reviewed and endorsed by the state testing lab.

**ROADWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE:**

A standing committee of the IACP that addresses roadway safety and other traffic safety-related issues.

**ROLLING LOG:**

A record (written or electronic) maintained by each DRE which lists all the DRE's evaluations in which the DRE has participated, either as an evaluator, witness, or DRE instructor. The

Rolling Log should include, at a minimum, the rolling log number, date, time, DRE's opinion, and toxicology testing results, if available.

**STANDARDIZED FIELD SOBRIETY TESTING INSTRUCTOR:**

An individual who has successfully completed the NHTSA/IACP approved Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) Instructor Development Course (IDC) or an approved equivalent.

**STANDARDIZED FIELD SOBRIETY TESTS (SFSTs):**

A battery of three tests developed and validated through a series of controlled experiments supported by research grants from NHTSA. The three tests include: Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN), Walk and Turn (WAT), and One Leg Stand (OLS).

**STATE:**

In addition to the designated states within the United States, this term is used to indicate other recognized jurisdictions, including U.S. Territories and other approved jurisdictions outside the United States. In jurisdictions outside the United States, the applicable geographic title may be substituted throughout this document as needed and directed by that country's national DRE Coordinator. (e.g., The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the TAP-recognized coordinator for Canada, can choose to apply the title "Province" for jurisdictions in Canada).

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANEL (TAP):**

A stand-alone advisory group formed to assist the NHTSA and the IACP on specific matters relating to the DEC Program. These matters include but are not limited to the revision of the approved training curriculum, review and approval of proposed alternative training programs, and other matters relating to the technical aspects of the DEC Program, which include Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST), Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE), Drug Impairment Training for Education Professionals (DITEP) and the DEC Program.

**TRAINING CURRICULA:**

The IACP, in cooperation with NHTSA, oversees the operation and curricula development of the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program, Standardized Field Sobriety Testing, and Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement training. In order to maintain the high standards of the programs, a responsibility of the Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) includes reviewing proposed alternative training programs to determine whether or not the course content and learning objectives are consistent with approved standards.

# **The International Standards of the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program**



**A Product of**

**The DEC Program Technical Advisory Panel of the International  
Association of Chiefs of Police**

## Executive Summary

Since 1984, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has supported the Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) Program, often referred to as the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Training Program. Initially developed by the Los Angeles, California, Police Department, DRE training has been validated through both laboratory and field studies conducted by Johns Hopkins University.

In 1987, the Highway Safety Committee of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) was requested by NHTSA to participate in the development and national expansion of the DEC Program, as well as to oversee the credentialing of certified DREs.

As the program grew, it became apparent that in order to ensure continued success, nationally accepted standards needed to be established. These standards, which establish criteria for the selection, training, and certification of DREs, helped to ensure the continued high level of performance of the DEC Program. In 1988, NHTSA asked the IACP and its Highway Safety Committee to develop this system of nationally accepted standards.

In March 1989, the IACP and NHTSA sponsored a meeting at the Transportation Safety Institute in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Persons invited to this meeting included experienced DREs, DRE instructors, curriculum specialists, toxicologists, prosecutors, and training administrators. The participants met in working groups to reach a consensus concerning the DEC Program's many issues and developed recommended minimum standards for the Highway Safety Committee. The standards were drafted and presented to the committee for review at its midyear meeting in June 1989.

In addition, the Highway Safety Committee agreed to name a Drug Evaluation and Classification Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) to assist and advise the committee concerning technical aspects relating to the program's operation.

The Highway Safety Committee, by resolution, adopted the *Interim National Standards of the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program*. The standards were subsequently approved by the voting membership of the IACP. The standards were adopted on an interim basis pending the outcome of an evaluation of the effectiveness of the program to be performed by NHTSA. In October 1992, the standards were officially approved and adopted. Revisions and updates are periodically made to the standards. Unless otherwise indicated in the specific revision, these revisions are prospective only and shall not apply retroactively.

Presented in this document are minimum standards specifying the requirements for certification and recertification of DREs and DRE instructors, standards for decertification and reinstatement, and standards for agency participation. Also, administrative guidelines are provided for those agencies participating in the program.

Nothing in this document shall restrict or preclude a participating state from adopting or implementing reasonable standards which are more stringent standards. The more stringent standards should be implemented by the State DEC Program Coordinator as directed and approved by that state's Governor's Highway Safety Office and with the review of the TAP Standards Committee.

Before a state implements more stringent standards, notification shall be provided to the TAP Standards Committee to allow for review and, if needed, discussion by the TAP Standards Committee. This is necessary to ensure that any more stringent standards utilized are reasonable, in-line with, and support the overall goals and objectives of the DEC Program. After reviewing the more stringent standards, the TAP Standards Committee will acknowledge the use of the more stringent standard or can recommend discussion, comment, or action by TAP as a whole if necessary.

In addition, in January of each year, any state utilizing any more stringent standards than the IACP International Standards shall report a list outlining each more stringent standard used in that state. This is necessary to maintain a record of the more stringent standards used by states.

When adopted by other countries, these standards will be administered according to their political structure.

## **I. Standards for Certification as a Drug Recognition Expert**

The standards in this section specify the criteria that must be met before an individual is certified as a drug recognition expert (DRE). These criteria outline the knowledge and skills required to be considered for training, as well as the knowledge and proficiencies required for final certification. The currently approved curriculum involves a three-phase training process. Before beginning the training program, participants must be trained in and demonstrate proficiency in using the NHTSA/IACP-approved Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFST), including the horizontal gaze nystagmus (HGN) test. Phase I of the DRE training consists of the two-day (16-hour) Preschool.

During this training phase, participants are taught the definition of the term “drug” as it is used in the Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) Program and become familiar with the techniques of the drug influence evaluation. Participants also begin to learn the techniques and procedures for evaluating persons suspected of drug impairment. Phase II of the training is a seven-day (56-hour) classroom program during which participants receive detailed instruction in the techniques of the drug influence evaluation examination as well as in physiology, the effects of drugs, and legal considerations. Upon completion of this training phase, the participant must pass a comprehensive written examination before proceeding to Phase III of training, the field certification.

The field certification portion of training follows the completion of the classroom training and is conducted within the next 60 to 90 days. During this portion of the training, participants, under the direction of certified DRE instructors, evaluate subjects suspected of being impaired by drugs other than alcohol. After participating in and documenting the results of at least 12 drug evaluations (being an evaluator for a minimum of six) and completing a comprehensive final knowledge examination, the participant may be recommended for certification as a DRE. The 60-to-90-day period may be expanded to six months with the approval of the DEC Program state coordinator.

- 1.1 In order to be considered for certification as a DRE, a person shall be in the employ, including part-time and unpaid positions, and under the direct control of: (1) a public criminal justice agency involved in the enforcement of criminal or traffic safety laws as a credentialed law enforcement officer/employee or (2) an institution involved in providing training services to officers of law enforcement agencies. Before attending the DRE training, persons who request to attend DRE training must submit an "Acknowledgement of DRE Training" to the DRE state coordinator. The acknowledgment may be part of a state's established DRE application process or may be a memorandum presented by the agency to the state coordinator. The acknowledgment should include the administration's acknowledgment of the purpose of the DRE training and authorization for the certified DRE to participate in DUI enforcement efforts and perform DRE-related duties, such as DRE evaluations.

**Commentary:** By becoming a participating agency, in accordance with Section VI, it is recommended and encouraged that all participating agencies allow their DREs to support

agencies requesting DRE assistance if within the ability of the DRE and the agency to respond to the request for assistance.

Persons with DRE Emeritus or DRE Ambassador status may not be certified as a DRE. Because of their recognized experience, skills, or credentials, they are encouraged to participate in the DEC Program as an adjunct instructor or in other ways which support the mission of the DRE Section and the DEC Program.

At the discretion of the DEC program state coordinator, other persons may audit or observe any or all portions of the DRE training. Persons attending the course as auditors or observers shall not be eligible for certification.

Persons pursuing certification for instructing in the DEC Program must meet all requirements for certification and recertification to maintain their standing as DREs or DRE instructors.

- 1.2 The DRE candidate must be able to carry out the essential functions to perform all components of the drug influence evaluation process. If the DRE candidate has any medical or physical limitations that would prohibit the DRE candidate from performing all the steps of the drug influence evaluation, they must notify the state coordinator before the beginning of the DRE training or as soon as the limitation is identified during the training process. The state coordinator may work with the candidate to see if reasonable accommodations can be made that would allow the DRE candidate to perform all steps of the drug influence evaluation.

Commentary: A reasonable accommodation does not mean “any” or “all” proposed accommodations. A reasonable accommodation cannot change the drug influence evaluation process or omit any steps. In addition, the accommodation cannot rely on the use of devices that would take away the DRE’s direct sensory observation of indicators during the drug influence evaluation. If an alternative procedure is identified, documentation of the DRE’s supplemental training must be provided.

- 1.3 The candidate DRE should have experience preparing comprehensive investigative reports and providing detailed courtroom testimony.

Commentary: The technical nature of the drug evaluation process and the need to provide detailed and accurate documentation of findings and conclusions require proficiency in preparing reports. Candidate DREs should have demonstrated the ability to investigate, document, and prepare detailed reports of incidents such as major traffic crashes or criminal violations. In addition, DREs must be able to provide court testimony concerning their methods and results, as well as their training and qualifications.

1.4 All DRE candidates must attend and successfully complete the NHTSA/IACP-approved course of instruction in Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) or an equivalent curriculum approved by the IACP Technical Advisory Panel. To the satisfaction of a DRE instructor, they shall demonstrate proficiency in using SFSTs by the conclusion of the DRE Preschool or a school meeting Standard 1.3 above.

Commentary: The drug influence evaluation process requires that the contribution of alcohol to observed impairment be determined. NHTSA has developed, and the IACP has adopted, the SFST procedure in conjunction with immediate breath testing as a means of identifying the alcohol-impaired driver. If the effects of alcohol are determined not to be the sole cause of impairment, the officer can begin the evaluation process to determine what other causes may be responsible.

In order to conform to the NHTSA/IACP model curriculum, SFST training must contain the specified number of hours and include at least two approved alcohol workshops. In addition, the training must instruct students in the administration of the horizontal gaze nystagmus (HGN), the walk and turn, and the one leg stand tests.

Each agency should ensure that candidates submitted for DRE training have adequate time before beginning the training program to develop and to demonstrate proficiency in the use of SFSTs or allow for refresher training in these techniques as necessary.

1.5 All DRE candidates must attend and complete the NHTSA/IACP DRE Preschool or an IACP-recognized equivalent no more than 30 days prior to progressing to Phase II, the DRE School.

1.6 Before attending Phase II of the DRE training, the candidate shall have met the learning objectives for Phase I of the training program, the NHTSA/IACP-approved DRE Preschool. The candidate shall be able to:

- define the term “drug” as it is used in the DRE training program;
- name the seven drug categories identified in the DRE training program;
- measure vital signs, including blood pressure, pulse, and body temperature;
- demonstrate proficiency with the 12-step drug influence evaluation process;
- demonstrate proficiency in the administration of the SFSTs, including HGN;
- demonstrate proficiency with the administration of the eye examinations, including pupil size, vertical gaze nystagmus, and lack of convergence;
- complete an IACP-approved DRE Preschool final examination with a score of not less than 80%.

These learning objectives are generally met through the completion of Phase I, the DRE Preschool. The state coordinator or course manager shall ensure that candidate DREs meet the prerequisites. Each candidate DRE will be required to demonstrate the knowledge and skills outlined.

1.7 The candidate DRE shall complete an approved classroom training course that, at minimum, achieves the learning objectives as stated in the NHTSA/IACP-approved training curriculum.

Commentary: NHTSA and the IACP have developed a classroom training course that, when completed, qualifies the participant to proceed to the field certification portion of the training program. Because of differences in the type and level of training for officers in the detection of impaired subjects, agencies should determine the most effective means of providing classroom training in drug recognition. However, in order to maintain the credibility and integrity of the certification phase, agencies that use a training program other than that currently approved by the IACP must have the alternative curriculum approved by the IACP Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) as meeting learning objectives. In addition, the TAP will be responsible for providing periodic updates and modifications to the NHTSA/IACP training curriculum.

1.8 All candidate DREs shall attend and complete the classroom portions of an approved DRE curriculum before progressing to Phase III (the field certification phase) of the training. This shall include satisfactorily completing all assignments and required examinations. A candidate missing classroom instruction shall be required to complete the missed portion under the guidance and approval of the course manager. Candidates who miss more than eight—not necessarily consecutive—hours of instruction shall repeat the course. Candidates shall not be permitted to “test out” of any portions of the training, nor shall they be permitted to attend only those classes they have not previously completed.

Commentary: Classroom sessions missed must be made up prior to the final classroom exam.

1.9 In order to satisfactorily complete the classroom portion of the training and proceed to field certification, the candidate DRE must complete an IACP-approved final examination with a score of not less than 80%. State coordinators shall use the current examination available through the State Coordinator Resource webpage.

A candidate scoring less than 80% on the final examination may, if utilized by the state, be retested once under the supervision of a certified DRE instructor. The retest shall be completed not less than 15 or more than 30 days following the completion of the classroom training.

Commentary: The IACP will provide state coordinators with a final classroom examination that may utilize randomly selected questions from a larger bank of test questions. The IACP will provide two tests to the state coordinators biannually. If a remedial examination is necessary for a candidate scoring less than 80% on the initial final examination, the examination used as a remedial examination shall not have been administered to the candidate previously. Upon satisfactory completion of the remedial examination, the candidate may then proceed to field certification. If the candidate does not achieve a passing score on reexamination, the candidate must retake the classroom portion of the training and pass the final examination before proceeding further in the certification process.

1.10 Upon completion of the field certification phase of training, the candidate must demonstrate the ability to correctly conduct a complete drug evaluation and appropriately document and interpret the results. The candidate must also be able to document the findings of the evaluation.

**Commentary:** One of the primary factors in the success of the DEC Program has been the emphasis on a standardized approach to the drug influence evaluation process. The training stresses the importance of a systematic, structured approach to performing the drug influence evaluation. Upon conclusion of an evaluation, the DRE reviews the results of all tests, examinations, and observations, documents the findings and draws a conclusion based on the totality of the evidence.

1.11 To be considered for certification as a DRE, the candidate DRE must satisfactorily complete a minimum of 12 drug influence evaluations on suspected impaired subjects, during which the candidate must encounter and identify subjects under the influence of at least three of the drug categories as described in the DRE training. Of the evaluations required for certification, the candidate shall administer a minimum of six evaluations. The candidate may observe the remaining evaluations. The DRE candidate's opinion regarding drug categories must be supported by forensic testing and/or toxicology. In the case of influence from a drug where forensic testing cannot or does not test for a specific drug, and it is not possible to acquire confirming toxicology, in these situations, for the evaluation to be considered acceptable for inclusion in the certification process, the concurrence from a certified DRE instructor regarding the drug category causing the impairment will be required. Certification training evaluations will be conducted in accordance with the current procedures and guidelines established in the DEC Program training curricula. All evaluations administered or observed, and documented for certification purposes, shall be observed, supervised, and reviewed by at least one certified DRE instructor and shall be performed on subjects suspected of drug impairment. In evaluations having an opinion of alcohol-impaired only, not impaired, or medical impairment, only (1) one of each of these types of opinions may be utilized in the 12 drug influence evaluations needed for certification.

**Commentary:** For a candidate DRE to receive credit for an administered or observed evaluation, the candidate shall independently write his own narrative based on his observations. The evaluation must also be recorded on the candidate's Rolling Log and Progress Log. If forensic toxicology testing is conducted and the results are not immediately available, the DRE shall enter the results in the Rolling Log as soon as practical. The evaluation shall include the Face Sheet and a complete narrative identifying the category(ies) of the drug(s) affecting the subject. If the DRE instructor who observed and supervised the candidate's evaluation is not available in person to review and approve the Face Sheet and narrative, the candidate should prepare a copy or scan of the completed Face Sheet and narrative and send it to the DRE instructor who observed the evaluation for review and approval. After the DRE instructor reviews and approves the

candidate's evaluation, the DRE instructor should return any documentation, feedback, and/or comments to the candidate. (The recommended way will be by e-mail so that a date and time are recorded on the correspondence.) If the DRE instructor is not available in person to sign the candidate's progress log, they should indicate within their feedback correspondence to the candidate that they are authorizing another DRE instructor to sign the candidate's progress log on their behalf. The candidate should keep any returned correspondence with the original evaluation in case any future review is necessary for certification purposes.

- 1.12 Prior to completing the certification phase of training, the candidate DRE must demonstrate the ability to draw correct conclusions consistent with observed physiological signs and symptoms. In addition, the conclusions must be supported by forensic testing. No candidate DRE shall be certified as a DRE unless blood, urine, or other appropriate biological samples are obtained and tested from at least nine (9) subjects whom the candidate has examined for certification purposes. These may include subjects for whom the candidate served as the examination recorder or observer and those directly evaluated by the candidate DRE. Further, the candidate cannot be certified unless the opinion concerning the drug category or categories affecting the subject is supported by forensic testing analysis 75 percent of the time or in at least seven (7) of the nine (9) samples submitted for certification purposes. For purposes of this standard, a candidate's opinion is supported if the forensic testing analysis discloses the presence of at least one drug category named by the candidate. In the event the candidate has concluded that three or more categories of drugs are involved, at least two categories must be supported by forensic testing.

**Commentary:** Successful and uniform application of this standard places essential forensic toxicological requirements on the program. Whenever possible, the DRE instructor should obtain a biological sample to confirm the candidate's opinion during the field certification process. Although the candidate must complete a minimum of 12 drug influence evaluations (Standard 1.11), Standard 1.12 requires only 75 percent of those to include a biological sample. This allows for those cases in which a biological sample is unavailable, such as when a subject refuses or cannot provide one. In cases when an evaluation is not supported by forensic testing, a certified DRE instructor should ensure that the candidate's opinion is based on observable signs and symptoms consistent with the candidate's opinion. In evaluations where no forensic testing is available, but there is concurrence from a certified DRE instructor regarding the drug category involved, that evaluation will not be included to satisfy the 75 percent requirement for evaluations supported by forensic testing or in the seven (7) of the required nine (9) evaluations with submitted toxicology. However, the evaluation may be included in the requirement in 1.11 to encounter and identify subjects under the influence of at least three of the seven drug categories.

For certification purposes only, alcohol will not be considered an independent category or included within the CNS Depressant category for assessing confirmation rates. For example, if a

DRE calls Alcohol (and has a breath test showing the presence of alcohol, such as 0.05%) and Cannabis because of the signs and symptoms observed during the evaluation, if the toxicology results do not confirm the Cannabis, it would be considered an incorrect opinion. In this same example, if the only confirmatory toxicology test result is the breath test for alcohol and no separate toxicology test was performed to determine the presence of other drugs, then it would be considered the same as if no toxicology results were available.

1.13 Prior to concluding the field certification training phase of the DRE training, the candidate DRE shall satisfactorily complete an approved Certification Knowledge Examination (CKE). The examination shall be administered, and the results reviewed by at least two certified DRE instructors. The examination shall only be administered after the candidate has completed not less than six drug influence evaluations, with not less than three of the drug influence evaluations being performed by the candidate. There is no remedial test for the CKE. If the candidate DRE cannot successfully demonstrate their ability to perform as a DRE to two DRE instructors during the administration of the CKE, then the candidate should be removed from the DRE training process.

**Commentary:** The CKE includes a comprehensive written examination section. As previously described, certification is based on the evaluation by the DRE instructors of the skills and abilities of the candidate DRE rather than on the completion of a specified set of tasks. There is no specific scoring of the CKE. The purpose of the CKE is to aid the instructors in evaluating the candidate's qualifications, performance, and general abilities to perform as a DRE.

Since this is the final step in the certification process, it is important that the candidate DRE be prepared to take the CKE. It should be administered when, in the judgment of the reviewing instructor(s), the candidate has demonstrated proficiency in conducting, evaluating, and documenting results of the drug influence evaluation process. After the candidate has completed the CKE, the candidate's responses will be reviewed by at least two DRE instructors. The review will be within seven days of the administration of the CKE if two DRE instructors are not present during the administration of the examination. The use of two DRE instructors to evaluate the candidate may overcome any bias either for or against a candidate. If the opinions of the initial two DRE Instructors are not comparable in their opinion of the candidate's approval or rejection of the CKE, a third DRE instructor (which may be the DEC Program state coordinator) will be utilized to review the CKE. The majority opinion between the three DRE instructors should be the final opinion of the candidate's approval or rejection of the CKE. However, the DEC Program state coordinator will have a final review and opinion for the approval or rejection of the CKE.

The CKE should be an evaluation step near the end of the candidate's certification process after the candidate has had sufficient training time to have a comprehensive understanding of the DRE process, procedures, and material.

The CKE is to be administered and proctored by a DRE instructor or the DEC Program state coordinator. The CKE is not to be administered as a take-home or unsupervised examination.

It is difficult to develop a standard due to the different jurisdictions that are involved. The following listed procedures are provided as suggested guidelines or best practices for the administration of the CKE. It is understood that testing dates, times, and locations may vary from state to state, so the following procedures are not written as strict policies. However, with each state following these guidelines as closely as possible for the administration and review of the CKE, the guidelines will support standardization in the administration of the examination in all jurisdictions.

The CKE should be considered as one examination and all parts should be administered on the same testing day, whenever possible. The CKE should be treated and reviewed as a single knowledge examination. It is preferred that the CKE be taken in sequence and administered in an area with adequate space for the candidate DRE to take the examination. It is preferred that the location be a secure location, such as an institution or facility used for learning, conducting classes, or testing.

Recommendations for the actual administration process are: The CKE may be administered in one whole part or in two separate parts on the day of testing. The test may be administered in a written format or in combination with an oral or interview-structured format. Sections 1 and 2 may be administered together to ensure the candidate knows and understands the basic parts of the DRE evaluation and the DRE matrix. After the candidate has completed these two sections, they should be reviewed by monitoring DRE instructors, and if there are any questions about the responses, the DRE instructors may ask the candidate for clarification of a response or to explain items in more detail or depth. After successfully completing those two sections, the candidate may then proceed to examination sections 3, 4, and 5. If the candidate cannot successfully complete sections 1 and/or 2 they should be dismissed from the DRE training.

When the candidate has completed all five sections of the CKE, either as a single examination or administered in two parts as described above, the candidate's full CKE should be reviewed as a whole. The reviewing DRE instructors should review the examination as a totality of the candidate's knowledge and understanding when developing their opinion as to their approval or rejection of the CKE. If there are questions about any of the candidate's responses, the DRE instructors may ask the candidate for clarification or to explain items in more detail or depth. During the reviewing process, the DRE instructors may ask the candidate to perform additional similar tasks from any section of the examination to ensure the candidate's knowledge and understanding. This is necessary so that the reviewing DRE instructors fully evaluate the candidate's qualifications, performance, and general abilities to perform as a DRE.

#### **Acceptance or Rejection of the CKE:**

If two DRE instructors approve the candidate's CKE, then those two DRE instructors should sign the candidate's Progress Log on the appropriate lines.

If two DRE instructors reject the candidate's CKE, the candidate should be dismissed from the DRE training. In cases of rejection, the lead DRE instructor, the DRE School course manager, and

the DEC Program state coordinator should be notified of the potential rejection. This will allow them to address subsequent questions and concerns from the candidate or sponsoring department. The DEC Program state coordinator should then proactively inform the candidate's department of the rejection.

- 1.14 The candidate DRE shall complete the field certification phase of training as soon as possible following the completion of the classroom training. This phase shall take place within the next 60 to 90 days and may be extended to six months with the approval of the state coordinator.

**Commentary:** Under normal circumstances, a candidate not completing field certification within the established extended six-month time period will be dropped from the DRE certification process. However, a reevaluation of the candidate's qualifications and the reasons for non-completion may be conducted by the appropriate state coordinator to determine if circumstances exist that indicate that the candidate should continue in the certification process. If the state coordinator approves the candidate to continue in the certification process, the state coordinator shall provide the candidate written documentation outlining why the exception was granted and setting a specific extension time period.

- 1.15 By the time the candidate DRE has completed field certification training, he shall have prepared a curriculum vitae reflecting his training and experience and complete a log of all evaluations which the candidate has conducted or observed.

**Commentary:** In order to be accepted as a credible witness, the DRE must be able to document and articulate a body of information concerning training, qualifications, and experience in the field of drug evaluation and classification. Toward this end, candidates are instructed in the importance and proper preparation of a curriculum vitae.

- 1.16 When the candidate DRE has satisfactorily completed all requirements of the classroom and field certification portions of the training, at least two certified DRE instructors who have observed and approved the candidate during field certification evaluations will verify that the candidate meets all requirements for certification as a DRE.

**Commentary:** The certification process relies in large part on the judgment of the instructor(s) as to the abilities and performance of the candidate. Experience has shown that in many cases, particularly those in which a candidate's qualifications may be in question, the opinion of a second instructor as to readiness for certification is of value. In addition, the use of a second instructor to evaluate the candidate may overcome any bias, either for or against a candidate. For these reasons, each candidate must be evaluated by at least two instructors prior to becoming certified as a DRE.

1.17 Following completion of certification requirements, copies of all relevant documents required, including test results, evaluation logs, and drug evaluation reports, shall be forwarded to the agency coordinator, if applicable, who shall forward all documents to the state coordinator. The state coordinator will review all relevant documents and sign the certification progress log indicating they certify the DRE Candidate as a Certified DRE. The state coordinator shall forward to the IACP the names and copies of the certification progress logs of the DREs certified as having successfully completed all phases of the DRE training program. The IACP will then credential and register each applicant as a certified DRE.

1.18 Prior to participating in any research project extrinsic of the DEC Program, the DRE must notify their DEC Program state coordinator. Reference Standard 7.3 for additional details.

**Commentary:** The DRE is “certified” on the date the state coordinator signs the DRE Candidate’s Progress Log. The IACP staff shall maintain current listings of persons certified as DREs. Upon notification that a person has met all requirements, the staff shall complete and forward to the state coordinator documentation indicating that the candidate meets all requirements of the DEC Program as a DRE. The state coordinator may forward these documents to the DRE’s agency or present them directly to the DRE. The IACP does not certify; that is the responsibility of the state coordinator. The IACP is the credentialing agency.

To accommodate the need for candidate DREs to have a valid account to practice entering evaluations into the national NHTSA DRE Data System, the DRE number that will ultimately indicate credentialing may be issued by the IACP to the state coordinator, upon request, for the sole purpose of use by the candidate DREs during this learning phase. In making the request, the state coordinator shall forward the roster for the school so that the IACP staff can relate a name to each number issued. A valid IACP DRE number is required for creating an account in the NHTSA DRE Data System, and state coordinators shall not use any other numbering system, self-generated number, or any other invalid numeric field in the IACP number field of the system. State coordinators are required to comply with established security and use requirements of the data system as described and provided by NHTSA. Pre-issuance of the DRE number will not imply or reflect that a candidate DRE is credentialed by the IACP. If the candidate DRE passes all the requirements for credentialing, this same number will be used throughout that individual’s career as a DRE. Should the DRE candidate who is assigned a number in advance not actually participate in the program nor complete the certification process, the state coordinator shall immediately deactivate the candidate’s access to the data system and notify the IACP staff within 30 days. The IACP will permanently deactivate this DRE number and indicate that it is inactive and no longer available to be reissued to anyone else.

## **II. Standards for Certification as a Drug Recognition Expert Instructor**

Because of the highly technical nature of the functions performed by the DRE, only persons experienced in the techniques of drug influence evaluation should instruct in the DEC Program. In general, these instructors will be certified DREs with experience in performing drug influence evaluations and in providing testimony in court in the area of drug recognition; however, persons who possess specialized skills or credentials may be utilized to teach certain parts of the training course as adjunct instructors. Dedicated, qualified instructors are critical to the continued success of the DEC Program.

Certified instructors are responsible for observing, evaluating, and verifying the performance of candidate DREs throughout the training and certification process. In addition, certified instructors should participate in providing periodic update training to DREs who are already certified.

Also addressed in this section are standards for the use of instructor trainers in the program. These individuals are responsible for the training of DRE instructors.

### **2.1 Only persons certified as DREs may be certified as DRE instructors.**

**Commentary:** Persons not certified as DREs but who possess knowledge, expertise, or credentials deemed valuable to the program may be designated as adjunct instructors for the DEC Program. Persons who might be considered for this designation may include medical professionals, toxicologists, attorneys, former DRE instructors, and others who possess knowledge in a designated field of expertise. Adjunct instructors must be familiar with the DEC Program and fully conversant with the most current curricula for their assigned blocks of instruction. Classes taught by adjunct instructors shall be taught in cooperation with certified DRE instructors to ensure accuracy and consistency.

Each adjunct instructor should provide the state coordinator with a biographical sketch to be included in the file of approved instructional staff. The biographical sketch shall include those segments of the training curricula that the adjunct instructor is qualified to teach. Some courts place more credibility on the DRE's expertise when portions of the curriculum are instructed by licensed medical professionals, toxicologists, etc.

### **2.2 Any certified DRE desiring to become an instructor in the DEC program should follow their departmental policies and procedures when applying for participation as an instructor in the DEC Program. The state DEC Program coordinator will ensure the applicant meets all qualifying requirements to be a DRE Instructor.**

**Commentary:** The agency head, or their designee, shall verify to the training provider that a candidate DRE instructor meets all prerequisites to enter DRE instructor training. Prerequisites may also include any state, local, or agency requirements specified for instructors within the jurisdiction. The state coordinator shall provide to requesting agencies the administrative guide and sample application forms for candidate instructors, as applicable.

2.3 The candidate shall satisfactorily complete the NHTSA/IACP-approved DRE Instructor Development Course, the NHTSA/IACP-approved DRE Condensed Instructor Development Course, or an approved equivalent, which shall include both a knowledge examination and practical examination of candidate instructors.

Commentary: This requirement does not preclude states or local jurisdictions from placing additional requirements on persons wishing to teach in the local law enforcement community.

2.4 Upon satisfactory completion of the NHTSA/IACP-approved classroom portion of training or completion of an equivalent program, the candidate shall be designated as a candidate instructor for purposes of completing instructor certification. To complete instructor certification, the candidate instructor must 1) teach for a minimum of two hours in the classroom portion of an approved drug recognition training program; and 2) supervise the administration of not less than two drug influence evaluations performed by candidate DREs during certification training. These steps in the instructor certification process shall be completed within one year of the instructor candidate completing the DRE IDC classroom training.

The candidate instructor's progress shall be monitored and evaluated by at least one certified DRE instructor.

Commentary: NHTSA and the IACP have developed an Instructor Development Course (IDC) curriculum for instructors in the DEC Program. The learning objectives for this program emphasize specific techniques for teaching the specialized information contained in the DRE curricula.

The TAP shall be responsible for reviewing and evaluating alternative training programs submitted by agencies. Those programs meeting or exceeding the approved learning objectives for instructor training shall be deemed "equivalent." This does not preclude agencies or states from adopting more stringent standards.

2.5 Upon satisfactory completion of instructor training, copies of all documentation, including instructor progress logs, examination scores, and instructor evaluations, shall be forwarded to the appropriate DRE coordinator. The agency coordinator will forward these documents to the state coordinator, who shall certify that the candidate has successfully completed all phases of DRE instructor training. The IACP will then credential and register each applicant as a certified DRE instructor.

Commentary: The IACP staff will maintain a current register of persons certified as instructors in the DEC Program. Upon notification that a person has met all requirements, the staff shall complete and forward to the state coordinator appropriate documentation indicating that the person meets all requirements as a DRE instructor. The state coordinator may forward these documents to the DRE's agency or present them directly to the DRE instructor.

The IACP shall provide forms for necessary progress logs and certification documents.

2.6 To ensure the proper conduct and delivery of the approved DRE curriculum, all training sessions conducted as part of the DEC Program shall be coordinated by a certified DRE instructor who has previously instructed. All classes taught by adjunct or candidate instructors shall be supervised directly by a certified DRE instructor.

Commentary: To ensure that all training classes are conducted in accordance with applicable standards, it is recommended that the instructor coordinating the training program have a minimum of one year's experience as a DRE instructor.

2.7 An instructor trainer shall have demonstrated proficiency as an instructor.

2.8 A DRE instructor trainer must be knowledgeable of and have audited all phases of the DEC Program and must be fully conversant with the participant and instructor manuals.

Commentary: An instructor trainer must present evidence of the satisfactory completion of the NHTSA/IACP DRE Instructor Development Course or equivalent. Instructor trainers must be familiar with the DEC Program and fully conversant with the curricula for their assigned blocks of instruction. To ensure consistency, classes taught by instructor trainers shall be taught in cooperation with certified DRE instructors.

Each instructor trainer shall provide the appropriate DEC Program coordinator with a biographical sketch to be included in the file of approved instructional staff. The biographical sketch shall include those segments of the training curricula that the instructor trainer is qualified to teach. The state coordinator should maintain a record of persons qualified as instructor trainers in the DEC Program.

2.9 Each DRE Preschool and DRE School shall have a course manager. The course manager primarily performs four duties: (1) planning and preparation, (2) on-scene course management, (3) data collection and (4) reporting. Other responsibilities include:

- assigning instructors, and verifying in advance that the training is conducted in the standardized manner and is properly evaluated;
- ensuring each DRE instructor is certified and properly credentialed by IACP;
- ensuring at the training site that all necessary conditions exist to maximize the candidate DRE's ability to learn;
- ensuring all necessary course training materials are procured;
- collecting certain data following every training event and forwarding it to the state DEC Program coordinator; and
- preparing a comprehensive report following every training event and forwarding it to the state DEC Program coordinator.

### III. Standards for Recertification

Recertification is necessary to ensure that DREs and DRE instructors maintain proficiency. Just as the standards in the previous sections have outlined the criteria for initial certification, the standards outlined in this section are required to ensure that professional integrity is maintained throughout the recertification process.

3.1 Records should be maintained in accordance with laws, rules, and regulations in the jurisdiction and agency in which the DRE is employed. In addition, at a minimum, the following records concerning certification and recertification shall be maintained:

Individual DRE / DRE Instructor	Rolling Log of Evaluations Curriculum Vitae
Agency or State's Regional Coordinator Form	Copy of Certification Progress Log Current Copy of Recertification Assurances
DEC Program Coordinators (if processed by this person)	Copies of Rolling Log of Evaluations Copies of Curriculum Vitae
State DECP Coordinator	Certification Progress Log for DREs and DRE Instructors Current Recertification Assurances Form Copies of Rolling Log of Evaluations Copies of Curriculum Vitae
IACP Staff	Certification Progress Log, Recertification Assurances Form, Reinstatement, and Decertification documents submitted for DRE credentialing by state coordinators

Commentary: Guidelines for the retention of pertinent records concerning the program operation help to ensure program integrity and provide valuable information for purposes of statistics and court verification of training. Other records, as deemed appropriate by local agencies or certification commissions, may be required of the individual DRE or the appropriate DEC Program coordinator.

3.2 DREs are credentialed for two years by the IACP. They shall be required to renew their certification of continuing proficiency every two years, by their state coordinator, except as provided in Sections 5.1, 5.2, and 5.3. The DRE is recertified for the next two-year period from the DRE's current expiration date on the date the state coordinator signs the Recertification and Assurances form. On the DRE's expiration date, the DRE status automatically becomes "expired," and the DRE is not certified to conduct enforcement evaluations until the status

becomes “recertified.” A one-year administrative time period following the lapse of certification may be allowed by the state coordinator for those not meeting recertification standards, whereby during that time period, the DRE may be recertified by the state coordinator after the DRE completes the recertification requirements as outlined in Standard 3.4 without having to repeat the original certification process. If a DRE has not been recertified at the end of the one-year administrative time period, the DRE will automatically become “decertified.” To become “recertified,” the DRE will have to be “reinstated.”

**Commentary:** The state coordinator may choose not to utilize the administrative time period. In any case, the DRE is not certified during the administrative time period.

If a DRE’s certification expires, and later within the one-year administrative time period, the DRE meets the recertification standards, recertification by the state coordinator will bring the DRE back into an “active” status but will not change the expiration date. The DRE will be required to submit recertification material again before the date, which is two (2) years from the last expiration date issued by the IACP.

**3.3** The IACP shall notify the state coordinator of those DREs in need of recertification six months prior to the expiration of their certification. The state DEC Program coordinator shall forward to the IACP staff the required documentation indicating the completion of recertification requirements, but no earlier than six months prior to the expiration of the DRE’s certification. IACP staff will issue new documentation when requirements are met.

**Commentary:** In the absence of a DEC Program state coordinator, the TAP regional coordinator will perform these functions.

**3.4** A DRE shall demonstrate continuing proficiency by:

1) Performing a minimum of four acceptable evaluations which have been reviewed and approved by a certified DRE instructor since the date of last certification. One of which shall be witnessed in person by a certified DRE instructor. These evaluations may be performed on subjects suspected of drug and/or alcohol impairment or during classroom simulations; and

2) Must complete and submit verification of a minimum of 8 hours of DEC Program recertification training completed since the date of the DRE’s most recent certification period. In the event, a DRE cannot attend the State Coordinator annual recertification training, a DRE may attend DEC Program related training. The recertification training must be reviewed and approved by the State Coordinator.; and

3) Presenting an updated curriculum vitae and evaluation rolling log to the DEC Program state coordinator for review.

**Commentary:** A DRE must physically perform a minimum of four acceptable evaluations (hands-on). Observed/scribed evaluations do not meet this criterion for recertification. To Be considered an

acceptable evaluation, a complete narrative must be utilized as listed in Standard 1.10 Commentary.

It is recommended that each state coordinator coordinate at least one annual DRE recertification training session in their jurisdiction. Multiple sessions are recommended to ensure the recertification training will be accessible to all DREs. Those training sessions will allow an opportunity for the state coordinator or a DRE instructor to have direct interaction with the DRE during their recertification period.

If a DRE cannot attend the state coordinator-sponsored DRE recertification training, it will be the DRE's responsibility to submit training documentation to the state coordinator for review and approval for their intended use of the training during that recertification period. The documentation must be submitted timely to allow for review and approval. The best practice will be for the DRE to get pre-approval before attending a training session so each knows that the training session will be credited towards the DRE's recertification training hours requirement. If not pre-approved, the training documentation should be presented to the state coordinator as soon as possible to avoid delays when the DRE's recertification paperwork is submitted. A state coordinator, through the enhanced standards process, may restrict the number of hours allowed to be credited to the DRE's recertification from non-state coordinator-sponsored DRE recertification training.

Training, when not sponsored by the state coordinator, submitted by the DRE for the purposes of a DRE's recertification will be training that can be directly related to the DRE's performance of the DRE process, continued education on substances of abuse, training to enhance the DRE's ability to detect, identify or enforce impaired driving laws.

If simulated evaluations are utilized for the recertification process, to be consistent with requirements used in the initial certification process as outlined in Standard 1.10, the simulated evaluation shall include a written narrative of the simulation to be considered an acceptable evaluation.

All coordinators are responsible for maintaining the integrity of the DEC Program; the appropriate coordinator, consistent with this responsibility, is encouraged to withhold recertification for, or refer for remediation, any DRE whose rolling log indicates an unacceptable level of accurate evaluations, as indicated by toxicology results. In determining an acceptable level of accurate evaluations, it is recommended that the coordinator reviewing the DRE's evaluations should, at minimum, review evaluations and narrative reports with completed forensic testing. The same criteria utilized in the certification process for the required supporting toxicology results with respect to the categories concluded by the DRE for determining if a "correct" opinion was made by the DRE should be utilized.

If the DRE's opinions are not supported by forensic testing analysis, meeting or exceeding the criteria utilized in the certification process, the coordinator reviewing the DRE's performance and evaluations should ensure a more in-depth review is conducted. The review should include, but not be limited to, a review of limitations on testing in the forensic lab testing for the drug categories, the admissions of drugs used by the subject during the evaluation but not found in the toxicology results, a review of the DRE's evaluation face sheets and narrative reports and the types of drugs suspected of being used if any were identified during the arrest and/or evaluation of the subject. The purpose of this review is to ensure the DRE is properly performing and is providing DRE opinions supported by the signs and symptoms the DRE observed in the DRE's evaluations before the

coordinator approves or recommends the DRE for recertification.

3.5 When a DRE has completed all requirements for recertification, the DRE's agency coordinator or a certified DRE instructor shall verify to the appropriate DEC Program coordinator that the minimum recertification requirements have been met by signing the recertification document. These documents are then forwarded for approval to the agency and DEC Program state coordinator and then submitted to IACP. Once received and approved by IACP, the DRE will receive two years of credentialing from the previous date of expiration listed on the DRE's credentialing records.

**Commentary:** In the event that information verifying completion of recertification requirements is not received by the IACP prior to the expiration of certification, the IACP will place that DRE's record into an Expired status and consider that DRE inactive. If recertification requirements are not received within one year of the DRE's expiration date, they will be placed in a Decertified status. A decertified DRE wishing to be reinstated must make a request for reinstatement to the DEC Program state coordinator. To be reinstated, requirements enumerated in Section V of the International Standards of the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program must be met.

3.6 With the approval of the DEC Program state coordinator, a certified DRE instructor may maintain instructor certification as long as DRE certification is maintained, and the following conditions are met.

To continue certification as a DRE instructor, an instructor should:

- Teach at a minimum level in either or both the classroom and field evaluations, as determined by the DEC Program state coordinator.
- Classroom instruction may be at a DRE School, or any other related training determined by the state coordinator.
- Field evaluations may be supervised either during field certification training or observing DREs who are conducting training evaluations, such as for recertification.

Should the DRE instructor not complete the above requirements, it is recommended that certification as an instructor be removed by the DEC Program state coordinator; however, DRE certification status will continue as long as the requirements for DRE certification are maintained.

The time frame for recertification shall follow that of the DRE recertification standards, as set forth in Section III, 3.2.

**Commentary:** The suggested number of classroom hours to instruct is eight. The suggested number of supervised evaluations is four. An instructor may be decertified for cause, such as for conducting substandard instructional programs and still maintain certification as a DRE.

## **IV. Standards for Decertification or Deactivation of Drug Recognition Experts and Instructors**

The standards in this section outline the circumstances and procedures for decertifying an individual DRE or the deactivation of a DRE instructor. In order to ensure that standards of performance are maintained, a means is needed for removing from the roles of the program those persons unable to meet the criteria of competence and professionalism. The responsibility for maintaining program standards lies with the agency and the appropriate DEC Program coordinator. It shall be incumbent upon all DEC Program coordinators to ensure that certified DREs meet approved standards for conduct and qualifications.

4.1 A DRE shall make notification to the DRE State Coordinator upon learning they are the subject of a criminal investigation, have been arrested for a criminal offense, are involved in an incident which may limit their ability to testify in court, or which may limit their ability to perform the duties of a DRE.

Such notification shall be made within one week of the occurrence.

4.2 Decertification of a DRE or removal of a DRE's instructor status may take place if one or more of the following conditions exist:

- The requirements as enumerated in Section III of the *International Standards of the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program* are not met by the individual DRE or DRE instructor, thus allowing certification to lapse; or
- There is evidence of failure or refusal to perform evaluations as a DRE, improper performance of evaluations, noncompliance with the International Standards of the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program or local state enhance standards; or
- There is evidence of failure or refusal to perform the duties as a DRE instructor; or
- Performance or ethical issues, even if not directly related to the duties as a DRE, which restrict the DRE's ability to testify in court, impact the DRE's credibility, or brings discredit upon the DEC Program.

4.3 Deactivation of a DRE or removal of a DRE's instructor status may take place if a DRE voluntarily requests to be removed from the program.

4.4 Decertification of a DRE or deactivation of a DRE's instructor status may also take place if the agency head submits a written request to the DEC Program state coordinator

requesting decertification of an agency's DRE or deactivation of a DRE instructor for agency needs.

**Commentary:** All DREs are responsible for maintaining and forwarding information to the appropriate DEC Program coordinator regarding required training or experience. If such information is not provided in a timely manner, their certification will expire.

A DRE wishing to be decertified or deactivated shall submit a written request through any appropriate agency process to the state coordinator. The state coordinator will notify the IACP staff. Upon receipt of approval of the request by the DEC Program state coordinator, IACP staff shall remove the individual's name from the list of certified DREs.

A DRE in good standing that was deactivated under the provision of 4.1 is eligible for reinstatement by either a request from the head of the agency that initially requested the deactivation, or upon employment with another law enforcement agency, and upon request of that agency head. The DEC Program state coordinator shall review the reason for the deactivation and will have final approval of the reinstatement request. Reinstatement as a DRE shall be in compliance with Section V of the *International Standards*.

Cases involving inadequate or improper performance or inconsistent findings shall be referred to the appropriate agency or state coordinator for review, recommendation, and action, which could include remedial training, temporary discontinuing drug influence evaluations, placing on in-active status, etc. Local agencies and licensing/certification bodies may, at their discretion, establish certification and decertification criteria to conform to local laws or rules. Nothing in these standards should be construed to overrule local authority in establishing standards no less stringent for the performance of officers in this area or to prevent an agency from following internal disciplinary or administrative personnel procedures.

A DRE instructor who has had their instructor status removed for cause may still maintain certification as a DRE. If the removal of a DRE's instructor status occurs by the agency, the DEC Program state coordinator shall be notified. The DEC Program state coordinator will notify the IACP staff.

**4.5** Agency coordinators shall monitor the performance of DRE instructors and DREs within their agencies and shall review complaints arising from their activities. When, in the opinion of the agency coordinator, and with the approval of the agency head (or his designee), a DRE's actions warrant decertification, the agency shall notify the DEC Program state coordinator that the DRE is no longer certified. Nothing in this procedure should be construed as preventing an agency from following internal disciplinary or administrative personnel procedures.

- 4.6 Before decertification or removal is finalized, a DRE or DRE instructor will be given written notice by the initiating coordinator or the DEC Program state coordinator of the reasons for decertification. The subject of the action shall have the opportunity for a written or oral response to the initiating DEC Program coordinator or the DEC Program state coordinator.
- 4.7 The DEC Program state coordinator, upon the recommendation of the agency coordinator or based on substantiated independent knowledge, shall initiate the decertification process against a DRE or DRE instructor. The state coordinator shall inform the IACP staff of all decertification actions.

The IACP staff will maintain records of all decertified or deactivated DREs and the reason(s) for removal.

## **V. Standards for Reinstatement of Drug Recognition Expert with Expired or Deactivated/Decertified Status**

The standards in this section outline the procedures for reinstating a DRE and/or DRE instructor with an expired or previously decertified/deactivated status.

- 5.1 A DRE whose certification is expired up to one year may be reinstated as a DRE when the requirements of Section 3.4 are met. In addition, the DRE must review all updates/revisions to the curriculum since the DRE's most recent certification.
- 5.2 A DRE whose certification is expired more than one year, and less than five years, may be reinstated as a DRE when the following conditions are met:
  - Completing and passing the DRE 100-item exam (same as that given at the end of the DRE School or the make-up exam) as witnessed by a certified DRE instructor, with a score of at least 80%.
    - ❖ A remedial 100-item exam will not be utilized in the reinstatement process.
  - Performing a minimum of four hands-on evaluations, all of which shall be witnessed by a certified DRE instructor. These evaluations shall be performed on subjects suspected of drug and/or alcohol impairment. Further, the expired DRE cannot be reinstated unless the opinion concerning the drug category or categories affecting the subjects of the evaluations is supported by forensic testing analysis 75 percent of the time, or in at least three (3) of the four (4) samples submitted for reinstatement purposes.
  - A review of all updates/revisions to the curriculum since the DRE's most recent certification presented by a certified DRE instructor.
  - Presenting an updated curriculum vitae and rolling log to the appropriate coordinator (or his designee) for review and approval.
  - All data entry required by a state's enhanced standard is current.
- 5.3 A DRE whose certification is expired more than five years must retake all three phases of DRE training.

**Commentary:** In many instances, a DRE certification lapses through no fault of the DRE due to transfers, promotions, etc., and recertification requirements have not been met. In many cases, a DRE may want to reapply DRE skills with a new assignment. IACP suggests that a written request for reinstatement to the DEC Program come from the decertified DRE with concurrence from their employing agency to the appropriate DEC state coordinator. The IACP provides a form to the state

coordinators for the purpose of reinstatement. All coordinators are cautioned to conduct a thorough review of the cause of the DRE's decertification and the reason for applying for reinstatement. The DRE's eligibility and reinstatement as a DRE are contingent on the approval by the DRE's DEC state coordinator based upon this review. If there is evidence that the DRE is deficient, the state coordinator has the discretion to require remedial training up to and including attending all three phases of DRE training.

If the DRE's request for reinstatement is approved by the DEC Program state coordinator, all reinstatement requirements must be completed within six months from the date the reinstatement request is approved. In no case shall a reinstatement be processed after five years from the last expiration date.

## VI. Standards for Agency Participation

Since 1986, the NHTSA and the IACP have endeavored to expand the DEC Program. These efforts have expanded in recent years to extend the DEC Program on a larger international basis. In an effort to contain costs, ensure the most efficient use of resources, and maintain a high probability of program success, NHTSA and the IACP has developed site selection criteria to be used in assessing the potential suitability of sites. Factors such as demographics, favorable legislation, agency operations, and system support for the program are considered in evaluating potential sites for the implementation of the DEC Program.

In considering the implementation of new traffic enforcement programs, law enforcement agencies, and/or governmental agencies must be aware of both the short and long-term costs that are involved. In order for the program to achieve maximum results, the DEC Program requires agencies to commit considerable long-term resources to the detection and apprehension of the drug-impaired driver.

6.1 A DEC Program site should be a state, a political subdivision of a state, or a group of subdivisions. (See the definition of "State" for expanded wording.)

6.2 A proposed program site should be able to produce enough drug-impaired driving arrests to (1) justify the expense of training the DREs, and (2) provide enough evaluation opportunities for DREs to maintain proficiency.

Commentary: Data indicates that a high percentage of the persons arrested for impaired driving are actually under the influence of drugs, either alone or in combination with alcohol. Thus, a site should produce an adequate number of DUI arrests annually per DRE to provide ample drug evaluation opportunities.

6.3 Prior to implementation of a DEC Program, a site should be located in a state with an implied consent, or equivalent, law that:

- explicitly allows the chemical test sample to be analyzed to determine the presence and/or concentration of drugs other than alcohol;
- explicitly indicates that the "consent" applies to multiple tests, i.e., that the person is "deemed to have given consent to a test or tests of blood, breath, oral fluid, or urine"; and
- empowers the arresting officer and/or the law enforcement agency to select the types of chemical tests to be taken, rather than giving the suspect the option of choosing the tests.
- In the absence of an implied consent law, a site must certify that the above three criteria are met and explain how testing of suspected impaired drivers will be

accomplished when applying to the IACP Technical Advisory Panel for consideration for acceptance to the DEC Program.

**Commentary:** It is pointless to evaluate drivers for drug-induced impairment unless those found to be impaired can be prosecuted successfully. The requirements for multiple chemical tests are essential because both a breath test and blood, oral fluid, or urine tests are integral components of the drug influence evaluation process.

In addition to implied consent, the effectiveness of a DEC Program is greatly enhanced by legislation that:

- allows the fact of a suspect's refusal to submit to the chemical test to be introduced as evidence in court; and
- makes it an offense to drive under the influence of any drug or impairing substance.

- 6.4 A participating agency's traffic law enforcement officers must be committed to using the NHTSA/IACP-approved training, and the agency must continue to provide training in the NHTSA/IACP-approved Standardized Field Sobriety Testing course or IACP-approved alternate training curriculum.
- 6.5 Participating agencies must maintain accurate and timely records to include: (1) the date of arrest, (2) gender, (3) date of birth or age, (4) the DRE's opinion, (5) the result of the toxicology sample, and (6) the name of the evaluator.

**Commentary:** In order to evaluate the effectiveness of the DEC Program critically, it is necessary that, at a minimum, the above records be maintained. In addition to evaluation purposes, the records may prove beneficial in establishing program validity for court purposes.

NHTSA and the IACP have endorsed a national DRE data collection program, which DREs and participating agencies/states are encouraged to use.

- 6.6 When possible, participating agencies should have the capability to establish centralized booking or processing of all DUI arrestees.
- 6.7 It is recommended that each location where DRE evaluations are conducted have adequate facilities, including the following:
  - a room sufficiently large enough to permit unobstructed administration of the psychophysical tests;
  - a room that can be darkened for the eye examinations;

- access to breath-testing equipment producing on-the-spot results; and
- facilities, materials, and/or staff for collecting blood, oral fluid, and/or urine samples.

Commentary: Because of the unique requirements of the DEC Program, it is sometimes more economical for several agencies within a site to share DUI processing facilities. Other desirable characteristics of a DUI processing facility include the following:

- adequate holding cells for arrestees;
- separate interrogation and report-writing areas that provide privacy from the general prisoner population;
- testing facilities that are out of main traffic patterns and allow the drug influence evaluation process to be performed without interruption or distraction; and
- a method of backup assistance response in cases of emergency.

6.8 Participating agencies must have access to laboratories capable of handling biological specimens for the purpose of identifying the presence of the most commonly abused drugs.

Commentary: Screening tests are not sufficient; a jurisdiction must be able to produce a confirmatory analysis.

6.9 To be approved as a DEC Program state, or to receive NHTSA/IACP-approved DRE training, agencies, states, and jurisdictions should have endorsements from the following:

- the state governor's representative for highway safety or equivalent;
- the chief officials with oversight of jurisdictions that will be establishing a DEC Program;
- the commanding officer of each participating law enforcement agency participating in the DEC Program;
- the administrative judge at the court level that tries people arrested for DUI within the jurisdiction;
- the chief prosecuting attorney for the courts in the jurisdiction where impaired drivers will be tried;
- the representatives of any other agencies involved in covering the costs of developing and sustaining the DEC Program; and
- a laboratory administrator that would be processing the samples for the state or jurisdiction.

6.10 To be approved as a DEC Program state, the state must submit documentation of compliance with the above-listed standards to the TAP no less than sixty (60) days before the TAP meeting in which their application is to be reviewed.

## **VII. Standards for a DEC Program State Coordinator**

7.1 Every state approved for the DEC Program must designate and appoint a state coordinator. The appointment and selection of the state coordinator shall be the responsibility of the state's Highway Safety Office (HSO). This selection may be made by the individual HSO representative or by any means approved by the HSO.

Commentary: Each state coordinator will be responsible for ensuring that the International Standards for the DEC Program are followed in their state. To ensure a successful DEC Program in their state, each state coordinator will ultimately be responsible for the overall supervision, review, and governing of all DREs and DRE agencies performing DRE functions within their state.

If there is no designated DEC Program state coordinator, the IACP Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) regional coordinator shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the state coordinator until a state coordinator is appointed by the HSO.

7.2 The DEC Program state coordinator may be an individual designated to act as the statewide coordinator for the DEC Program on behalf of an individual who oversees or manages the program.

7.3 All presentations of existing NHTSA/IACP curriculums and training material related to the DEC Program should be pre-approved by the State Coordinator.

7.4 Prior to participating in any research project extrinsic to the DEC Program, the DRE shall notify their DEC Program state coordinator. The state coordinator will have the final authority to allow or disallow the DRE's request to participate in the research project as it relates to the use of their position as a DRE.

Commentary: It is not required that the state coordinator be a DRE or a sworn law enforcement officer; however, some states have adopted this standard to ensure that their state coordinators have a working knowledge of the DEC Program and possess the necessary skills and experience in the DRE process.

In some cases, a higher-ranking individual oversees the DEC Program but appoints someone to manage its day-to-day operations.

## **VIII. Standards for a DEC Program Regional Coordinator**

- 8.1 Selection and appointment of the DEC Program regional coordinator will be made by the IACP.
- 8.2 Each regional coordinator shall serve a three-year term with the expiration dates designated by the TAP (refer to TAP by-laws).
- 8.3 The DEC Program regional coordinators should perform the following roles within their appointed regions:
  - assist the TAP with carrying out its mission, goals, and objectives regarding the DEC Program;
  - provide assistance to the IACP DEC Project Managers;
  - provide, as needed, assistance to state coordinators within their regions;
  - assist in the expansion and development of the DEC Program within their regions;
  - coordinate and conduct a regional DEC Program state coordinators' meeting each year;
  - assist with the collection of yearly DRE information from states within their regions;
  - perform any other DEC Program functions agreed upon and approved by NHTSA and the IACP; and
  - provide a report of activities within their regions at the regularly scheduled TAP meetings

## IX. Standards for DEC Program Accountability

All DEC Program practitioners and coordinators are responsible for maintaining the integrity of the DEC Program. Self-governance of the DEC Program is a significant benefit to the viability of the sustainability and success of the DEC Program.

### 9.1 Practitioners

If any issues are identified relating to a DEC Program practitioner, where their performance, compliance to standards, or ethical issues, even if not directly related to the duties as a DRE, including but not limited to issues that may restrict the DRE's ability to testify in court, impacts the DRE's credibility or brings discredit upon the DEC Program, those issues shall be reported to the state coordinator as soon as practical.

The respective state coordinator will have the responsibility to inquire into the reported issue, including seeking input and information from others and/or getting assistance from coordinators or instructors.

Based on the state coordinator's findings, corrective actions should be taken to address and alleviate any identified issues. Action may include, but not be limited to, remedial training, removal of the DRE's instructor status, or decertification of the DRE.

### 9.2 State Coordinators

If any issues are identified relating to a DEC Program State Coordinator, where their performance, compliance to standards, or ethical issues, even if not directly related to the duties as a DEC Program state coordinator, impact the state coordinator's credibility, impacts the certification or recertification of DREs within the state, or which brings discredit upon the state or international DEC Program, those issues shall be reported as soon as practical.

Issues may include, but are not limited to:

- Allowing DREs to perform evaluation outside of the standards or detrimental to DEC Program
- State Coordinator not upholding standards
- Failure to provide in-service trainings for DRE to have ability to recertify
- Failure to work with state's DREs or submit recertification materials for recertification
- Not responding to communications from DREs within their state

Initial reporting may be to the National DEC Program Manager or one of the DEC Program Regional Managers. Based on the level or severity of the issue reported, the DEC Program managers may contact the state coordinator and advise them of the reported issue. Then, program managers may work with the state coordinator to address and correct any deficiencies. This could include, but not be limited to, the program manager providing updated reference material, providing best practice plans, or providing guidance on successes in other states.

If the issue is of a severe nature that cannot be addressed by the program managers, or if the issues are not corrected by the state coordinator while working with the program managers, the National DEC Program manager shall contact the state coordinator's highway safety office and provide a summary of the issues and what steps, if any, have been made to correct the issues. The state's

highway safety office will then have the opportunity to inquire into the reported issues and, if necessary, assist in developing corrective actions to correct deficiencies.

If any issue is identified that cannot be resolved by work provided by the DEC Program managers or by the state coordinator's highway safety office, the issue may be presented to the TAP. A summary of the issue and any actions taken will be presented to the full TAP body by the TAP Regional Representative for the state involved. The TAP may review the issues and make recommendations for additional steps to address the issue, when identified. The Chair may appoint TAP members or request additional efforts by the TAP Regional Representative or by the DEC Program managers.

If no additional actions are identified, the TAP, as the approving body for accepting a state into the DEC Program, will have the ability to temporarily or permanently suspend a state coordinator. The TAP regional coordinator shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the state coordinator until the issue is resolved.

## **X. Standards for Conflict Resolution**

10.1 For instances not covered in the aforementioned standards, resolutions/decisions will be made by a consensus of the following individuals:

- the state coordinator,
- the regional Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) representative
- the IACP DEC Project Manager
- the IACP DEC Program manager or designated IACP staff liaison to the IACP Technical Advisory Committee (TAP)
- TAP Presiding Official from IACP

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# **International Standards of the Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Program**



**A Product of**  
**The DEC Program Technical Advisory Panel of the**  
**International Association of Chiefs of Police**

## Executive Summary

Since the mid-1970s, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), with the cooperation and assistance of the law enforcement community, has conducted research that resulted in the development of a battery of three standardized field sobriety tests (horizontal gaze nystagmus, walk and turn, and the one leg stand) to assist police officers in detecting impaired drivers. The program, which was previously termed Improved Sobriety Testing, was initially developed by the Los Angeles Police Department and was validated in laboratory and field studies conducted by the Southern California Research Institute. Training in how to conduct the tests is included in the NHTSA course DWI Detection and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing.

In 1986, the Advisory Committee on Highway Safety of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) passed a resolution that recommended that law enforcement agencies adopt and implement the field sobriety testing training program developed by NHTSA. As the program has grown, it was apparent that in order to ensure continued success, nationally accepted standards must be established. These standards, which establish criteria for the selection and training of SFST practitioners, would help ensure the continued high level of success of the SFST program. In 1992, the IACP Highway Safety Committee recommended the development of this system of nationally accepted standards.

In April of 1992, the IACP and NHTSA sponsored a meeting at the headquarters of the IACP in Arlington, Virginia. Persons invited to this meeting included senior SFST instructors from several states, curriculum specialists, and training administrators. The participants met in working groups to reach a consensus concerning the many issues relating to the SFST program and to develop recommended minimum standards for the IACP Technical Advisory Panel, to be present to the Highway Safety Committee. The standards were drafted and presented to the committee for their review at the midyear meeting in June 1992.

The Advisory Committee on Highway Safety, by resolution, adopted the national standards for the SFST program. The standards were subsequently approved by the voting membership of the IACP.

Presented in this document are standards specifying the requirement for selection, training, recertification, and decertification of SFST practitioners and instructors.

## **I. STANDARDS FOR TRAINING IN THE SFST TRAINING PROGRAM**

Standards in this section specify the criteria which must be met prior to an individual's completion in the Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) Program. These criteria outline the knowledge and skills required to be considered for training, as well as the knowledge required for completion of the program.

The current approved curriculum involves a three-day training program. Prior to beginning the training program, candidates should have an interest in traffic law enforcement with an emphasis on DUI/DWI. During this training, candidates are taught to administer and interpret the results of the SFST battery, including horizontal gaze nystagmus (HGN), walk and turn, and the one leg stand.

Upon completion of this classroom training, the candidate must pass a comprehensive written examination and successfully complete a proficiency examination witnessed by an SFST instructor.

- 1.1 In order to be considered for training in the SFST, a candidate shall be in the employ, including part-time and unpaid positions, and under the direct control of a public criminal justice agency involved in the enforcement of criminal or traffic safety laws as a credentialed law enforcement officer/employee or an institution involved in providing training services to officers of law enforcement agencies.

*Commentary:* At the discretion of the state's designated SFST Coordinator, or if not applicable, at the discretion of the agency head or administrator, and with the consent of the training authority, other persons may audit or observe any or all portions of the SFST training.

- 1.2 SFST candidates shall complete an approved classroom training course which shall, at a minimum, achieve the learning objectives as stated in the NHTSA/IACP approved training curriculum.

*Commentary:* This curriculum normally takes about 24 hours to complete. To be recognized by NHTSA/IACP, regardless of hours, candidates must have met all the listed learning goals and performance objectives included in each of the training sessions.

Because of the differences in the type and level of training for officers in the detection of impairing substances, agencies should determine the most effective means of providing classroom training in SFST. However, in order to maintain the credibility and integrity of the program, agencies that use a training program other than that currently approved by NHTSA/IACP must have the alternative curriculum approved by the IACP Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) as meeting the required learning objectives. In addition, the IACP Technical Advisory Panel will be responsible for providing periodic updates and modifications to the NHTSA/IACP-approved training curriculum. Presently, the core SFST training course is 24 hours in length and includes at least two controlled drinking sessions utilizing volunteer drinkers (i.e., "live alcohol workshops"). Acceptable options for the "live" workshops involving the use of videos have been approved. The acceptable alternatives are (1) to substitute NHTSA/IACP approved videos of "dosed" subjects for the first alcohol workshop, but to conduct the second alcohol workshop "live"; or

(2) to substitute NHTSA /IACP approved videos of “dosed” subjects for both alcohol workshops.

***It is critical to note that the purpose of this training is to ensure that candidates become proficient in administering and interpreting standardized field sobriety tests. NHTSA and IACP strongly recommend the use of live alcohol workshops as part of SFST training. However, NHTSA and IACP recognize the limitations some agencies have in conducting live alcohol workshops. If either option is selected, each candidate must complete a log of each SFST administered during the training.***

1.3 All SFST candidates shall attend and complete all classroom portions of an approved SFST curriculum. This shall include satisfactorily completing all assignments and required examinations. Candidates shall not be permitted to "test out" of any portions of the training, nor shall they be permitted to attend only those sessions they have not previously completed.

*Commentary:* Class sessions missed should be made up at the earliest possible time.

1.4 In order to satisfactorily complete the classroom portion of the training, SFST candidates must complete the NHTSA/IACP-approved final examination with a score of not less than eighty percent (80%). Candidates scoring less than 80% on the final examination may be retested one time under the supervision of an SFST instructor. The retest shall be completed not less than 15 nor more than 30 days following the completion of the classroom training.

*Commentary:* The examination used to retest the candidate shall be an NHTSA/IACP-approved examination and shall not have been administered to the candidate previously. If the candidate does not achieve a passing score on reexamination, the candidate must retake the classroom portion of the training and pass the final examination.

1.5 Before completion of the SFST classroom training, the candidate must demonstrate the ability to administer the SFSTs in the approved sequence and appropriately document and interpret the results.

*Commentary:* One of the primary factors in the success of the SFST program has been the emphasis upon a standardized approach. The training stresses the importance of a systematic, structured administration of the SFSTs. This includes completing all portions of the field sobriety tests in the appropriate sequence. SFST candidates who cannot demonstrate proficiency in the performance of the SFSTs during the proficiency session of the classroom training must retake all of the classroom portions of the training. Remedial SFST proficiency examinations outside of the classroom are not allowed.

## **II. STANDARDS FOR TRAINING AS INSTRUCTORS IN THE STANDARDIZED FIELD SOBRIETY TESTING PROGRAM**

SFST instructors will have successfully completed the NHTSA/IACP-approved Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) training program or its equivalent. They will have experience in administering the SFSTs and in providing testimony in court in the area of DUI/DWI enforcement. Dedicated, qualified instructors are critical to the continued success of the SFST program.

SFST instructors are responsible for observing, evaluating, and verifying the performance of SFST candidates throughout the training process. Therefore, only persons experienced in the administration of the SFST battery should become SFST instructors. Also addressed in this section are standards for instructors/trainers in the program. These individuals are responsible for training the SFST instructors.

- 2.1 Only persons who have successfully completed the NHTSA/IACP approved DUI Detection and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing training program, or its equivalent may be designated as SFST instructors.
- 2.2 Any SFST-trained person desiring to become an instructor in the SFST program should follow their departmental policies and procedures when applying for participation in the SFST program. The state SFST Program coordinator will ensure the applicant meets all qualifying requirements to be an SFST Instructor.

*Commentary:* The agency head or SFST coordinator shall verify that a candidate instructor meets the prerequisites to enter SFST instructor development course training. Prerequisites may also include any state, local, or agency requirements specified for instructors within the jurisdiction.

- 2.3 The candidate instructor shall satisfactorily complete the NHTSA/IACP-approved SFST Instructor Development Course (IDC), or an approved equivalent, which shall include both knowledge and practical examination of candidate instructors. DRE instructors are recognized as SFST instructors and are approved to instruct the SFST program.

*Commentary:* This requirement does not preclude state or local jurisdictions from placing additional requirements on persons assigned to teach additional local law enforcement programs.

- 2.4 All training sessions conducted as part of the SFST program shall be coordinated by a designated SFST instructor who has previously instructed to ensure proper content and delivery of the approved curriculum.

*Commentary:* To ensure that all training classes are conducted in accordance with the standards, it is recommended that the instructor coordinating the training have a minimum of one-year of experience as an SFST instructor.

- 2.5 An instructor trainer (a person who is training instructors) shall have demonstrated proficiency as an instructor.
- 2.6 An instructor trainer must be knowledgeable of and have audited the SFST School and the SFST IDC training and must be thoroughly familiar with the SFST student manual and instructor guide.

*Commentary:* An instructor must demonstrate evidence of the satisfactory completion of the NHTSA/IACP-approved Instructor Development Course or equivalent. Instructor trainers must be familiar with the approved SFST Training Program and be thoroughly familiar with the curricula for their assigned blocks of instruction.

### **III. STANDARDIZED FIELD SOBRIETY TESTING (SFST) REFRESHER TRAINING**

The standards in this section outline the recommended requirements for refresher/update training of SFST practitioners and SFST instructors.

- 3.1 It is recommended that all law enforcement agencies maintain records concerning the training of law enforcement officers trained in SFSTs.
- 3.2 It is recommended that states adopt SFST refresher/update training guidelines for SFST practitioners and instructors to ensure they remain proficient and knowledgeable in the administration and interpretation of the SFSTs.

*Commentary:* The methods and frequency of the SFST refresher/update training are left to the individual states. NHTSA and the IACP have developed an SFST Refresher Training curriculum that can be taught in either a 4-hour or 8-hour classroom setting.

- 3.3 It is recommended that all SFST practitioners complete a state-approved refresher/update training at a minimum of every three years from the date of their most recent state refresher/update training as an SFST practitioner.
- 3.4 It is recommended that all SFST instructors complete a minimum of 8 hours of state-approved refresher/update training at a minimum of every two years from the date of their most recent state refresher/update training as an SFST instructor.

*Commentary:* The methods of training are left to the individual state. However, the training should include curriculum revision updates to ensure consistency and accuracy in the delivery of the SFST training. Instructing an SFST course shall not be considered part of the refresher/update training.

## **IV. STANDARDS FOR REMOVAL OF A STANDARDIZED FIELD SOBRIETY TESTING (SFST) INSTRUCTOR**

The standards in this section outline the circumstances and procedures for removing an SFST instructor. In order to ensure that standards of performance are maintained, a means of removing persons unable to meet those criteria are recommended. The final authority and responsibility for maintaining program professionalism and standards resides with the state. It shall be incumbent upon the state to assure that SFST instructors meet approved standards for delivering the SFSTs in accordance with the IACP International Standards or approved equivalent state standards.

- 4.1 It is recommended that decertification occur when an SFST instructor fails to meet minimum program standards and requirements or demonstrates unethical or unprofessional behavior that reflects adversely on the program.
- 4.2 Recognition as an SFST instructor will remain in place as long as that individual meets the requirements of Standards 3.2 and 3.4

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**International Standards of  
the  
Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement  
Program**



**A Product of  
The DEC Program Technical Advisory Panel of  
the International Association of Chiefs of Police**

## Preface

Since the mid-1970s, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), with the cooperation and assistance of the law enforcement community, has conducted research that resulted in the development of programs to aid law enforcement in the detection, apprehension, and prosecution of impaired drivers.

In 1986, the Advisory Committee on Highway Safety of the International Association of Chiefs of Police passed a resolution that recommended that law enforcement agencies adopt and implement the field sobriety testing training program developed by NHTSA. The SFST program trains officers to identify and assess drivers suspected of being under the influence of alcohol, while the DEC Program provides more advanced training to evaluate suspected drug impairment. The SFST assessment is typically employed at the roadside, while an officer trained as a drug recognition expert (DRE) through the DEC Program conducts a drug evaluation in a more controlled environment such as a detention facility.

The Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) program was developed in 2009 by NHTSA with input from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) and the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police. The ARIDE training curriculum prepares police officers and other qualified persons to conduct various drug-impairment detection tests at the roadside for use in drugged driving investigations. The ARIDE program was created to address the gap in training between the Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) and the Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) Program (also referred to as “The DRE Training Program”).

ARIDE is intended to bridge the gap between these two programs by providing officers with *general knowledge* related to drug impairment and by promoting the use of DREs in states that have the DEC Program. One of the more significant aspects of ARIDE is its review and required student demonstration of the SFST proficiency requirements. The ARIDE program also stresses the importance of securing the most appropriate biological sample in order to identify substances likely causing impairment.

ARIDE is not intended to replace DRE training, which is much more intensive and skill based. ARIDE is not a prerequisite for DRE training, (however, some states have elected to enhance their standards and do require ARIDE to attend DRE training). Officers who complete ARIDE may decide to further enhance their skills and complete DRE training. ARIDE meets a need for increasing the knowledge base for officers in identifying drugs that impair driving. In addition, ARIDE helps to promote the DEC Program. As the program has grown, it was apparent that in order to ensure continued success, nationally accepted standards must be established. These standards, which establish criteria for the selection and training of ARIDE practitioners, help ensure the continued high level of success of the ARIDE program. In 2019, the IACP Technical Advisory Panel Committee recommended the development of this system of nationally accepted standards.

ARIDE is taught by DRE instructors; that is, they (1) hold currently valid certificates as DREs; (2) have completed the NHTSA/IACP DRE Instructor Training Course; and (3) have completed the required delivery of both classroom and certification training, under the supervision of credentialed DRE instructors. Certain portions of the curriculum, as identified in the Instructor Guide, may be taught by SFST instructors who are also DREs.

## **I. GENERAL STANDARDS FOR THE ARIDE TRAINING PROGRAM**

The ARIDE course will train law enforcement officers to observe, identify, and articulate the signs of impairment related to drugs, alcohol, or a combination of both in order to reduce the number of impaired driving incidents, serious injuries, and fatal crashes. The ARIDE course is not developed to act as a substitute for the DEC Program and will not qualify or certify an individual as a Drug Recognition Expert.

- 1.1 In order to be considered for training in ARIDE, a candidate shall be in the employ, including part-time and unpaid positions, and under the direct control of a public criminal justice agency involved in the enforcement of criminal or traffic safety laws as a credentialed law enforcement officer/employee or an institution involved in providing training services to officers of law enforcement agencies.
- 1.2 The candidate shall have attended and successfully completed a NHTSA/IACP approved Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFST) training.

*Commentary:* At the discretion of the DEC Program state coordinator, other persons may audit or observe any or all portions of the ARIDE training.

- 1.3 The information presented as part of the ARIDE course is not intended nor meant to equip the officer with the knowledge or ability to categorize the impairment observed with a specific drug category.
- 1.4 ARIDE-trained officers should only provide an opinion concerning if the suspect is or is not impaired.
  - 1.4.1 If the opinion is that the suspect is impaired, the ARIDE-trained officer should support their opinion with indicators of impairment. Only a certified DRE should offer an opinion regarding which drug category is causing the impairment.
- 1.5 A certified DRE should be utilized in all drug-impaired driving investigations in which the ARIDE-trained officer suspects drug impairment or drug and alcohol combinations, regardless of the BAC.

*Commentary:* ARIDE-trained officers should be familiar with the DEC Program in their state and be aware of a procedure to obtain the assistance of a certified DRE to aid in the evaluation, documentation, and prosecution of a drug-impaired driving case. The use of a DRE as part of the DUI investigation is to support and provide more in-depth investigation and documentation of

the suspect's impairment and to identify potential medical issues which may be causing the signs of impairment. The use of a DRE is not intended to take away an arrest from the arresting officer but is intended to be a supplemental tool for the arresting officer's use.

- 1.6 It is recommended that all ARIDE classes be coordinated through the state's DRE coordinator. The state's DRE coordinator may assist in managing qualified DRE instructors to instruct the ARIDE classes.
- 1.7 ARIDE candidates shall complete an approved classroom training course which shall, at a minimum, achieve the learning objectives as stated in the NHTSA/IACP approved training curriculum.

*Commentary:* This is an intermediate-level course designed to offer more than a basic understanding of the impairing effects of drugs (illicit and licit), alcohol, and/or the combination of both. This course was designed to be offered to officers with training and field experience.

- 1.8 All ARIDE candidates shall attend and complete all classroom portions of an approved ARIDE curriculum. This shall include satisfactorily completing all assignments and required examinations. In order to satisfactorily complete the training, the student must complete the final examination with a score of no less than 80%. Candidates shall not be permitted to "test out" of any portions of the training, nor shall they be permitted to attend only those sessions they have not previously completed.

*Commentary:* Class sessions missed should be made up at the earliest possible time. In order to satisfactorily complete the classroom portion of the training, ARIDE candidates must complete the NHTSA/IACP approved Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Proficiency examination.

Candidates who have not successfully completed the SFST proficiency examination on the first attempt may be allowed a retest before the end of the first day of training. If the candidate does not demonstrate proficiency during the reexamination, the candidate should be dismissed from the training. Candidates that do not score 80% or better on the final classroom examination will need to retake the entire class.

## **II. STANDARDS FOR INSTRUCTORS TRAINING THE ARIDE PROGRAM**

Because of the technical nature of the ARIDE class, only persons experienced in the techniques of drug influence evaluation should instruct in ARIDE classes. In general, these instructors will be certified DRE instructors with experience performing drug influence evaluations and providing testimony in court in drug recognition; however, persons who possess specialized skills or credentials may be utilized to teach certain parts of the training course as adjunct instructors.

- 2.1 Only persons certified as DRE instructors may be instructors for the full ARIDE course. That means that they: (1) Are currently certified as DREs, (2) Have completed the NHTSA/IACP DRE Instructor Development Course, and (3) Have completed the required delivery of both classroom and certification training under the supervision of certified DRE instructors.
- 2.2 If adjunct instructors are utilized, the DRE instructor must be present during and monitor all sessions of the ARIDE training to ensure the proper delivery of curriculum material.
- 2.3 A certified DRE, who is not a DRE instructor, is not qualified to solo teach an ARIDE training class. A DRE Apprentice Instructor may co-teach with a certified DRE Instructor.
- 2.4 A qualified SFST instructor may only instruct sessions one (1) through three (3), leading to the preparation and evaluation of participants during the SFST proficiency examination.

**Commentary:** In addition to their occupational competencies, all instructors must be qualified to instruct within their state and need to understand and be able to apply fundamental principles of instruction. Perhaps most importantly, they need to be competent coaches. Much of the classroom training is devoted to hands-on practice. The quality of coaching will significantly impact the success of those practice sessions.

However, some agencies may wish to enlist instructors with unique credentials for specific blocks of instruction. For example, a physician would be well qualified to assist/teach Session 4, and a prosecutor might be a good choice for Session 8.

These requirements do not preclude state or local jurisdictions from placing additional requirements on persons assigned to teach local law enforcement programs.

All training sessions conducted as part of the ARIDE program shall be coordinated by a designated lead ARIDE instructor who has previously instructed ARIDE classes to ensure proper content and delivery of the approved curriculum.

### **III. ARIDE REFRESHER TRAINING**

The standards in this section outline the recommended requirements for refresher/update training of ARIDE practitioners and ARIDE instructors.

- 3.1 It is recommended that all law enforcement agencies maintain records concerning the training of law enforcement officers trained in the ARIDE Program.
- 3.2 It is recommended that states adopt ARIDE refresher/update training guidelines for ARIDE practitioners to ensure they remain proficient and knowledgeable in the administration and interpretation of the SFSTs and remain current on the latest drug trends.
- 3.3 It is recommended that all ARIDE practitioners complete a state approved ARIDE refresher/update training at a minimum of every three years from the date of their most recent state refresher/update training as an ARIDE practitioner.
- 3.4 It is recommended that all SFST instructors who instruct in sessions one through three of the ARIDE curriculum complete a minimum of 8 hours of state approved SFST refresher/update training at a minimum of every two years from the date of their most recent state refresher/update training as an SFST instructor.

*Commentary:* The methods and frequency of the ARIDE refresher/update training are left to the individual states. However, the training should include curriculum revision updates to ensure consistency and accuracy in the delivery of the ARIDE training.

## **IV. STANDARDS FOR REMOVAL OF AN ARIDE INSTRUCTOR**

- 4.1 It is recommended that any issues related to the teaching of an ARIDE class be directed to the instructor's DRE state coordinator.
- 4.2 Actions could include, but not be limited to, failure to instruct all course objectives and requirements, demonstrating unethical or unprofessional behavior, or conduct that reflects adversely on the program.
- 4.3 The DRE state coordinator can directly address any issues relating to a DRE instructor. If the state coordinator is not also the SFST coordinator, they can forward any issues about an SFST instructor to the SFST regulating body in their state.