

January 5, 2012

Attn: Agency Heads
Training Coordinators
Firearm Instructors

There have been questions about the status of the proposed qualification course as it relates to the 2012 calendar year qualification requirement.

First and foremost, for calendar year 2012, either the old course of fire or the new proposed course of fire (dated January 1, 2012) will be accepted by AZPOST for Certification Retention requirements. It is anticipated that the new proposed course of fire, when finalized, will become mandated for calendar year 2013.

Secondly, it is staff's belief that based on the feedback and input from many practitioners, the only stage which was still being debated to any significant degree is Stage 3 – Seven Yard Line. Based on the feedback from the past year, all other stages are acceptable.

The proposed course has been altered to reflect those concerns. Specifically, one of the tactical reloads has been replaced with another "draw and fire." This means there will be a total of two empty gun reloads and one tactical reload. The data suggests that empty gun reloads occur more often than tactical reloads, and it suggests that the "draw and fire" situation is an important skill.

The Board and its staff are committed to insuring that the Firearms Qualification course is reflective of the reality currently faced by officers including the situations they confront and the weapon they carry.

I look forward to your comments on this proposed change and your comments on ways to test the officer's ability to perform a failure to fire drill which can be articulated and standardized.

Lyle W. Mann
Executive Director
Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board