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Title 37, Section 203 establishes certain regulatory requirements related to police firearms qualification courses.

- The Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (Commission) is required to publish requirements related to police firearms qualification. §203.12(3)(i)
- The minimum passing score for a firearms course is 75%. §203.11(11)(ii)(A)
- All waiver-of-training applicants and basic cadets must meet the Commission's standards for firearms qualification. §203.11(11)(ii)(A); §203.12(3)(i)
- All certified officers must complete annual qualification on a police firearms course with any firearms authorized for use, including personal weapons. §203.52(b)(1)(i)
- Failure to meet the Commission's standards for firearms qualification is grounds for revocation of certification. §203.14(a)(3)
- .38/380 is the minimum acceptable caliber for police firearms qualification §203.33(16)(i)
- Firearms instructors can refuse to qualify an individual on a weapon they have determined is unsafe, inadequate or not appropriate for police training. §203.33(16)(i)

The information contained below establishes specific requirements related to police firearms courses that apply to all applicants and certified municipal police officers.

Handgun Courses

- A handgun course of fire must be a generally accepted police qualification course consisting of at least fifty (50) rounds of duty ammunition. (recommend using the ammunition carried the previous year and rotating in new ammunition for duty carry)
- The course shall include various stages at different distances to determine the applicant's or officers' overall proficiency in safety, marksmanship, and weapon operating procedures.
- Stages should include firing with two hands, strong hand, support hand, and reloads.
- Firing should be conducted between one (1) yard and twenty five (25) yards, with exceptions granted for off-duty and back-up sized weapons, where at the instructor's discretion, all rounds can be fired between one (1) and fifteen (15) yards.
- The course should include low/dim light qualification.

Rifles and Shotguns

- Qualification for shotguns or rifles must be completed on a generally accepted law enforcement qualification course for those weapons.
- When an officer is assigned a weapon he/she should qualify with that weapon. In situations where armory stored weapons will be used by multiple officers, all officers authorized to pull firearms must qualify on each weapon system or platform (AR, etc)

Firearms Instructors

- All basic academy firearms training and qualifications must be accomplished by Municipal Police Instructors employed by certified police academies.
- All annual firearms qualification for in-service police officers must be conducted by a Certified Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor. Firearms Instructors who have successfully completed firearms instructor training can submit an application and, once approved by MPOETC, are authorized to conduct annual qualifications in Pennsylvania.
- Firearms instructors and Police Chiefs are responsible for producing and maintaining documentation of in-service firearms qualifications to include the number of rounds fired, individual scores, and firearms used.

Documentation

Annual firearms qualifications must be documented in the MPOETC Training and Certification System (TACS). At a minimum, each officer's primary duty weapon qualification must be entered by the end of each calendar year to maintain certification. Qualifications for additional weapon systems may be entered. Officers for whom no qualification is entered will show an "expired" certification (MPOETC number) and will be removed from the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) until a qualification is entered.

REMINDER: A weapon may not be carried on duty for which an officer is not qualified