




Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE STANDARDS AND TRAINING COMMISSION TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM 2023-04

DATE: March 21, 2023

TO: Criminal Justice Training Center Directors

FROM: Director Felipe Williams
Criminal Justice Professionalism Division 

SUBJECT: BRT Firearms Handgun Standardization

Effective immediately, all basic recruit students must use handheld flashlights and iron sights when qualifying with the handgun in the Basic Recruit Training Firearms for Criminal Justice Officers course. Only one standard is acceptable and anything other than the use of handheld flashlights and iron sights allows for separate standards.

Basic recruit students are expected to perform all qualifications as identified in the training. The purpose of qualifying with a handheld flashlight is for the recruit to demonstrate the ability to perform the requirements as written. Allowing qualification with only a weapon-mounted light does not meet the intended purpose of the nighttime qualifications that require a handheld flashlight.

In addition, students are not training on Red Dot Sights (RDS) from a basic recruit standpoint; they are training on iron sights. Therefore, recruits are expected to qualify on iron sights. Aside from recruits not being trained on RDS in basic training, RDS has a technology component which can fail, so recruits must be able to demonstrate proficiency with iron sights. Skills also need to be assessed with equipment that is available to all agencies and training centers.

If an agency has already added a weapon-mounted light and a Red Dot Sight (RDS) to the handgun, recruits can simply turn off the RDS and use the iron sights. The weapon-mounted light can remain on the handgun, but the recruit must use the handheld flashlight in their support hand when qualifying.

The above standards apply only to basic recruit and equivalency of training qualifications. These do not apply to in-service training and qualifications.

If you have any questions, please contact Training and Research Manager Garrett Riggs at GarrettRiggs@fdle.state.fl.us or (850) 410-8648, or Training and Research Manager Rob Bates at RobertBates@fdle.state.fl.us or (850) 410-8672.

cc: Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission