

Considered changes to  
217.21 Firearms Proficiency Requirements

The Firearms Committee reviewed the current rule and suggested the following changes be considered for future rule changes.

Subsection (c)(1) – 5 rounds is seen as out of date since the majority of officers now carry semi-automatic handguns.

Subsection (d) is being added to allow for handgun ammunition other than duty, this is to accommodate differing range requirements (such as frangible rounds at indoor ranges.)

Subsection (e) is being added to require a low-light condition qualification for officers working under those conditions. Statistics continue to show most shootings occur in low-light conditions.

Subsection (f) is being added to set a common minimum standard for targets used across the state.

An additional recommendation is for agencies consider requiring shooting from the 25 yard line as this approximates the distance between cars on a felony car stop.

Agencies are reminded to rotate their duty ammunition per manufacturer's recommendations.

Agencies that the members contacted about this task felt that the requirements should not be lessened as they are aware that some agencies base their firearms policy on this rule.

Comments may be submitted electronically to [public.comment@tcleose.state.tx.us](mailto:public.comment@tcleose.state.tx.us) or in writing to Mr. Timothy A. Braaten, Executive Director, Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education, 6330 E. Highway 290 STE. 200 Austin, TX 78723-1035.

**§217.21 Firearms Proficiency Requirements**

- (a) Each agency or entity that employs at least one peace officer shall:
- (1) require each peace officer that it employs to successfully complete the current firearms proficiency requirements at least once each year;
  - (2) designate a firearms proficiency officer to be responsible for the documentation of annual firearms proficiency. The documentation for each officer shall include:
    - (A) date of qualification;
    - (B) identification of officer;
    - (C) firearm manufacturer, model;
    - (D) results of qualifying; and
    - (E) course(s) of fire.
  - (3) keep on file and in a format readily accessible to the commission a copy of all records of this proficiency.
- (b) The annual firearms proficiency requirements shall include:

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- (1) an external inspection by the proficiency officer, range officer, firearms instructor, or gunsmith to determine the safety and functioning of the weapon(s);
  - (2) a proficiency demonstration in the care and cleaning of the weapon(s) used; and
  - (3) a course of fire that meets or exceeds the minimum standards.
- (c) The minimum standards for the annual firearms proficiency course of fire shall be:
- (1) handguns - a minimum of 50 rounds, ~~including at least five rounds of duty ammunition~~, fired at ranges from point-blank to at least 15 yards with at least 20 rounds at or beyond seven yards, including at least one timed reload;
  - (2) shotguns - a minimum of five rounds of duty ammunition fired at a range of at least 15 yards;
  - (3) precision rifles - a minimum of 20 rounds of duty ammunition fired at a range of at least 100 yards; however, an agency may, in its discretion, allow a range of less than 100 yards but not less than 50 yards if the minimum passing percentage is raised to 90;
  - (4) patrol rifles - a minimum of 30 rounds of duty ammunition fired at a range of at least 50 yards, including at least one timed reload; however, an agency may, in its discretion, allow a range of less than 50 yards but not less than 10 yards if the minimum passing percentage is raised to 90;
  - (5) fully automatic weapons - a minimum of 30 rounds of duty ammunition fired at ranges from seven to at least 10 yards, including at least one timed reload, with at least 25 rounds fired in full automatic (short bursts of two or three rounds), and at least five rounds fired semi-automatic, if possible with the weapon.
- (d) Ammunition used for handgun qualification must be duty ammunition or comparable (bullet weight and velocity) to duty ammunition.
- (e) Officers required to occasionally work under low-light conditions must qualify at least once annually with handguns under low-light conditions.
- (f) The minimum passing percentage shall be 70 for each firearm on a silhouette target comparable to a B-27 in size and scoring.
- (g) The executive director may, upon written agency request, waive a peace officer's demonstration of weapons proficiency based on a determination that the requirement causes a hardship.
- (h) The effective date of this section is