



State of New Jersey

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Lt. Governor

ATTORNEY GENERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT DIRECTIVE NO. 2020-4

TO: All Chief Law Enforcement Executives

FROM: Gurbir S. Grewal, Attorney General

DATE: May 8, 2020

SUBJECT: Directive Revising Firearms Qualification and Requalification Standards for New Jersey Law Enforcement

On March 20, 2020, I issued Attorney General Law Enforcement Directive 2020-2, a *Directive Updating Certain Reporting, Training, and Certification Deadlines*. At that time, I determined that it was not yet necessary to revise New Jersey's twice-annual firearm requalification requirement, outlined in Semi-Annual Firearms Qualification and Requalification Standards for New Jersey Law Enforcement ("the Standards").¹ I indicated that my office would continue to monitor the situation and revisit firearms requalification requirements should the circumstances require.

Over the past several months, many law enforcement firing ranges have been closed, which makes it harder for law enforcement agencies to complete the first round of requalification required by the Standards. In addition, the assets of law enforcement agencies have been stretched thin addressing the many challenges created by the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic. Protecting the well-being of our residents during this unprecedented emergency, and ensuring the health and well-being of our law enforcement professionals, must always be my primary goals.

In order to ensure the most efficient use of law enforcement resources, I have determined that it is necessary and appropriate to adjust the twice-annual requirement of the Semi-Annual Firearms Qualification and Requalification Standards for New Jersey Law Enforcement for calendar year 2020. Law enforcement officers will be required to complete a single firearms requalification this year, which will keep them in compliance with N.J.S.A. 2C:39-6j, which requires officers to complete an initial firearms training course and then an *annual* qualification.

¹ A copy of these Standards can be found at <https://www.state.nj.us/lps/dcj/pdfs/dcj-firearms.pdf>.



Although adjusting the twice-annual firearm requalification requirement to a single requirement for 2020, I am not relaxing the training requirement in the Attorney General's Use of Force Policy requiring officers to complete twice-annual training on the "lawful and appropriate use of force and deadly force."² This Use of Force training does not require the use of a firing range and is often completed via online and other electronic learning platforms. It is an important component of New Jersey law enforcement's robust in-service training requirements.

Therefore, pursuant to the authority granted to me under the New Jersey Constitution and Criminal Justice Act of 1970, N.J.S.A. 52:17B-97 to -117, I, Gurbir S. Grewal, hereby DIRECT all law enforcement agencies operating under the authority of the laws of the State of New Jersey to implement and comply with the following policies, procedures, standards, and practices:

1. All law enforcement agencies shall ensure that every officer they employ completes at least the following rounds of firearms requalification during calendar year 2020:
 - a. One entire round of firearms requalification with the handgun.
 - b. For any officer authorized to carry a shotgun, one entire round of firearms requalification with the shotgun.
 - c. For any officer authorized to carry a patrol rifle and/or subgun, two firearms requalification sessions with the patrol rifle and/or subgun, one of which shall be a qualification round and the other a training/familiarization round.

All rounds of firearms requalification shall comply with the requirements outlined in the Semi-Annual Firearms Qualification and Requalification Standards for New Jersey Law Enforcement and shall include all applicable night requalification requirements as mandated by the Standards.

2. All law enforcement agencies shall ensure that every officer they employ completes at least two training sessions on the lawful and appropriate use of force and deadly force, as required by Section II.A of the Attorney General's Use of Force Policy.
3. Nothing in this Directive prohibits any law enforcement agency from requiring their officers to complete additional rounds of firearms requalification during the year 2020, or requiring their officers to complete any additional in-service training.
4. The adjustments to the Standards outlined in this directive shall not be applicable to firearms requalifications for retired law enforcement officers issued permits pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:39-61. The requalification requirements for Retired Officer Carry Permits shall continue to be governed by N.J.S.A. 2C:39-61 and Executive Order No. 129 (2020).
5. This Directive is issued pursuant to the Attorney General's authority to ensure the uniform and efficient enforcement of the laws and administration of criminal justice

² A copy of this Policy can be found at <https://www.nj.gov/oag/dcj/agguide/useofforce2001.pdf>.

throughout the state. This Directive imposes limitations on law enforcement agencies and officials that may be more restrictive than the limitations imposed under the United States and New Jersey Constitutions, and federal and state statutes and regulations. Nothing in this Directive shall be construed in any way to create any substantive right that may be enforced by any third party.

6. Questions concerning the requirements laid out in this Directive shall be addressed to Jeffrey J. Barile, Deputy Bureau Chief, Prosecutors Supervision and Training Bureau within the Division of Criminal Justice at BarileJ@njdcj.org.

This Directive shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force until December 31, 2020, unless it is repealed, amended, or superseded by Order of the Attorney General.



Gurbir S. Grewal
Attorney General

ATTEST:



Veronica Allende
Director, Division of Criminal Justice

Dated: May 8, 2020