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TEXAS COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

Technical Assistance Bulletin

To: All Texas Law Enforcement Agencies/Contract Training Providers/Licensees
From: Kenny Merchant/Director, Credentialing and Field Services
Regarding: **Instructor Proficiency Certificates**
Date: June 5, 2019

Does completion of the Basic Instructor course by itself certify someone as a TCOLE instructor? No, it does not. In order to obtain a TCOLE Basic Instructor certification, the applicant must not only meet all other requirements listed in Rule 221.27, but must also submit a properly filled out application with the required fee.

Is a TCOLE-issued instructor certificate required to teach any law enforcement course? Generally, no, it is not. If it is required, it will be so stated in the TCOLE curriculum abstract. Some training providers do have internal policies which require all their instructors to be TCOLE certified. As a general rule, however, the only requirement is that the instructor's subject matter expertise be duly documented in an official bio-sketch which must be included in the permanent training file of the course being taught.

Is a TCOLE-issued instructor certificate required to be appointed as a training coordinator? Yes, but only if the entity contracts with TCOLE as a training provider. If a training contract is not in play, TCOLE does not require the certification. However, here too, the agency by policy may require it even though no contract is in play.

Is a TCOLE-issued instructor certificate required to obtain a Firearms Instructor Proficiency Certificate? Yes, in addition to the successful completion of the TCOLE Firearms Instructor course, or a firearms instructor's course that meets or exceeds the minimum standards established and approved by the TCOLE, Rule 221.19 requires that the applicant hold a current TCOLE instructor certificate.

Does a TCOLE Instructor License allow the instructor to teach legislatively mandated/certification courses? No, basic licensing courses, legislatively mandated courses, and certification courses must be taught through a TCOLE Contract Training Provider. The instructor must be affiliated with and reporting through the Provider to teach those courses.

For additional information about this and other training related topics, please contact:
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