Background

Axon launched the TASER 7 program in November 2018 which required 8 cartridge deployments for end-user (officer) certification. Initial customer feedback highlighted time and resource costs as a concern. As of January 2020, Axon is amending this standard to reflect two different levels of certification. This Bulletin outlines the TASER Training certifications available for the TASER 7 platform, and the differences between each level of certification. This Bulletin does not relate to certification on other TASER CEW models.

De-Escalation - Scenario Based Training Certification: Axon supports and recommends a full de-escalation curriculum to become proficient in CEW weapon handling and use of force application rooted in scenario-based training (SBT). SBT seeks to help the end user transfer learned skills into day-to-day decision making, particularly during stressful or high intensity situations. The goal of this comprehensive, in-depth training is to further the safe and effective use of CEWs while reducing ineffective deployments due to operational error, CEW over-reliance, CEW use for pain compliance, and weapon confusion.

De-Escalation - Scenario Based Training Certification requires the deployment of 2 HALT (Hook and Loop) and 2 Live cartridges per angle (12-degree “Close Quarters” and 3.5-degree “Standoff”), for a total of 8 cartridges, in years 1 and 3 of the 5-year plan. The cartridges must be deployed into the preferred target area of a target or HALT suit. The user is only required to deploy 2 cartridges per angle in years 2, 4 and 5. These requirements are reflected in the TASER 7 Certification Plan and OSP 7 and OSP 7+ packages, where 4 Live cartridges will be shipped during each year of the plan, and 4 HALT cartridges will be shipped in years 1 and 3.

Basic Certification: To obtain the Basic Certification for TASER 7, the user must deploy a minimum of 2 cartridges per angle (either live or HALT at the agency’s preference), for a total of 4 cartridges per year. However, an agency may choose to certify on only one cartridge angle if the agency will not be using both cartridge angles in the field. The cartridges must be deployed into the preferred target area of a target or HALT suit. This Certification reflects the minimum requirements necessary for TASER 7 handling and use.

As a reminder, Axon does not retain certification data for end users. It is up to the user’s agency to maintain all training records, including TASER CEW certifications.