



# VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Planning, Research & Audit Section

**Date:** June 18, 2007  
**To:** Executive Committee  
**From:** Volker Helmuth, Director  
Planning, Research and Audit Section

**Subject:** Amendments to RPM Section 56.01: Qualifying Standards

RU#2007-050

Amendments to RPM s. 56.01: *Qualifying Standards - Firearms, Baton, Vascular Neck Restraint and Oleoresin Capsicum Spray* are required, to ensure that the RPM reflects current practices. These amendments have been reviewed and approved by Inspector Schnitzer, Training & Recruiting Section.

Section 56.01(1) requires amendment as follows:

- removal of the requirement that the Training Board establish minimum qualifying standards for weapon retention/retrieval, as no such standard exist;
- removal of the requirement that members annually attain a minimum standards for Vascular Neck Restraint (VNR), as re-qualify is actually every three years;
- removal of that directive that the Education & Training Unit publish a schedule of annual firearm, baton, VNR and OCS qualification dates, as schedules for baton, VNR and OCS are only published every two years.

I recommend approval of the proposed amendments to the policy.

Volker Helmuth, Director  
Planning, Research & Audit Section



# VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT PLANNING & RESEARCH SECTION

**May 22, 2007**

**To:** Volker Helmuth, Director  
Planning & Research Section

**From:** Shelley Horne, Constable 1791  
Planning & Research Section

**Subject:** *Housekeeping amendments to Regulations and Procedures Manual Section 56.01: Qualifying Standards – Firearms, Baton, Vascular Neck Restraint and Oleoresin Capsicum Spray* **2007-050**

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## **Assignment**

To amend Regulations and Procedures Manual (RPM) Section 56.01: *Qualifying Standards – Firearms, Baton, Vascular Neck Restraint and Oleoresin Capsicum Spray*.

## **Background**

Sgt. Clive Milligan, Force Options Training Unit (FOTU), identified that amendments are necessary to RPM S. 56.01 in order to reflect current practices and VPD standards.

## **Resources**

Steve Schnitzer, Inspector 1033, Training & Recruiting Section  
Clive Milligan, Sergeant 1395, Force Options Training Unit

## **Research and Analysis**

RPM Section 56.01 requires amendments as it contains inaccurate information. The proposed amendments are all administrative in nature and have received approval from Inspector Steve Schnitzer, Training & Recruiting Section.

Sgt. Milligan advised that an amendment is required to S. 56.01(1) where it currently states that the Training Board is responsible for establishing minimum qualifying standards for weapon retention/retrieval. This should be removed as there is no qualifying standard for weapon retention/retrieval. Although weapon retention and retrieval is taught by the FOTU, it has never been graded.

An amendment is also necessary to this section as it currently informs members that they are required to attain the minimum standards for Vascular Neck Restraint (VNR) annually, however, Sgt. Milligan advised that members are actually required to re-qualify on VNR every three years. In

practice, the FOTU includes training and qualification in VNR, oleoresin capsicum spray (OCS), and baton every second year as part of team training.

RPM Section 56.01(2) currently states that the Education & Training Unit shall publish a schedule of annual firearm, baton, VNR and OCS qualification dates. This should be amended as the Education and Training Section only publishes schedules for baton, VNR and OCS every two years.

## **Conclusion**

Several housekeeping amendments to RPM S. 56.01: *Qualifying Standards – Firearms, Baton, Vascular Neck Restraint and Oleoresin Capsicum Spray* are required to ensure that the RPM reflects current business practices. These amendments are administrative in nature and have been approved by Inspector Schnitzer, Training & Recruiting Section.

## **Recommendations**

I recommend that:

1. The proposed amendments to Regulations and Procedures Manual Section 56.01: *Qualifying Standards – Firearms, Baton, Vascular Neck Restraint, and Oleoresin Capsicum Spray* be approved as housekeeping changes; and
2. This file be concluded.

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Shelley Horne, Constable 1791  
Planning & Research Section

## Existing Procedure

### Section 56.01 Qualification Standards – Firearms, Baton, Vascular Neck Restraint and Oleoresin Capsicum Spray

1. The Training Board will establish minimum qualifying standards in Firearm Marksmanship, Vascular Neck Restraint, Weapon Retention/Retrieval, Oleoresin Capsicum Spray and the use of the Baton. Members are required to attain the minimum standards annually for Firearm Marksmanship and the Vascular Neck Restraint. Members are required to attain minimum standards for Weapon Retention/Retrieval, Oleoresin Capsicum Spray and the Baton every three years.
2. The Education and Training Unit shall publish a schedule of annual firearm, baton, vascular neck restraint and oleoresin capsicum spray qualification dates. The Department shall afford each member the necessary training and qualification sessions. However, it is ultimately the responsibility of all members to ensure that they attend the required qualification sessions. Members who are unable to attend the scheduled qualification sessions shall arrange alternate dates with the Education and Training Unit.
3. Members who fail to qualify shall surrender the attendant equipment (firearm, baton and/or oleoresin capsicum spray) to the Range, Police Stores or their Supervisor. In circumstances where the member is unable to surrender the equipment or the equipment has not been returned, the Department shall ensure the property is seized.

## Proposed Procedure

FOI Recommendation: For Public Release

### Section 56.01 Qualification Standards – Firearms, Baton, Vascular Neck Restraint and Oleoresin Capsicum Spray

1. The Training Board will establish minimum qualifying standards in firearm marksmanship, vascular neck restraint, oleoresin capsicum spray and the use of the baton. Members are required to attain the minimum standards annually for firearm marksmanship and every three years for vascular neck restraint, oleoresin capsicum spray, and the baton.
2. The Education and Training Unit shall publish a schedule of firearm, baton, vascular neck restraint and oleoresin capsicum spray qualification dates. The Department shall afford each member the necessary training and qualification sessions. However, it is ultimately the responsibility of all members to ensure that they attend the required qualification sessions. Members who are unable to attend the scheduled qualification sessions shall arrange alternate dates with the Education and Training Unit.
3. Members who fail to qualify on a particular piece of equipment shall surrender that equipment (firearm, baton and/or oleoresin capsicum spray) to the Range, Police Stores or their Supervisor. In circumstances where the member is unable to surrender the equipment or it has not been returned, the Department shall ensure the equipment is seized.