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## **Draft Guidelines** **FCI REGULATIONS FOR THE** **WORKING CERTIFICATE FOR SLED DOGS** **AND THE DELIVERY OF CACT**

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**Final draft approved by the Commission on 18th May 2014**

**NB: Terms referring to natural persons are applicable to both genders and numbers**

## **Preamble**

1. The present document presents some guidelines proposed to FCI National Canine Organisations and contract partners on how dogs should be tested in order to allow them to enter the working class in international dog shows. These guidelines are designed to first help countries new in this activity and which need some guidance. Later at a second stage the commission will then work towards harmonising the present national rules already existing in some Member countries.
2. In 2010 the Commission was able to see and appreciate the Finnish working test that, in Finland allows dogs that pass it to enter the “Working Class” in dog show. There is also in Finland and France as well as in other countries a racing test. While this racing test may apply in different ways to Alaskan Malamute, Siberian Husky, Samoyed and Greenland Dog, each breed keeping its own specific test, the commission wishes to assemble a global set of rules that may be acceptable to all countries and that, at the end, will provide a minimum level of aptitude for each breed to enter the working dog class that is opened in all international shows (CACIB) and National dog shows.
3. In addition, like it is already organised in some Member countries, these draft rules also provide indications on how CACT and RCACT could be awarded in Member countries in order to enable them to start having National Working Champions, a preliminary step in the process of being able in future to award CACIT on an international basis.

## **I. General**

4. The regulations set forth in the following paragraphs should be considered as MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS of the FCI for any dog getting the FCI Working Certificate delivered by his national canine organization, being member of the FCI (hereafter named “FCI National Organization”, shortly “FCI-NO”). It is up to each FCI-NO to increase and specify the general requirements set by the FCI.

## **II. Minimum requirements**

5. As actually some Member countries are already awarding the working certificate to their Polar dogs according to National rules using either a “working test” or a “racing test” or a mix of both, these guidelines would strongly suggest both test.

6. While in some countries, racing tests are preferably organised on sled races, the commission is of the opinion that in countries where such races cannot be organised or when exceptionally a lack of snow does not allow for such organisations in winter, it is possible to organise them on dryland races.

7. The purpose of trials for sled dogs is to find out the hauling/pulling, speed, endurance and obedience qualities of sled dogs intended for breeding purposes, to develop enthusiasm and their mutual co-operation and to improve the dog’s working ability.

8. Sled dog trials can characteristically be races, breed specific trials and races, open or only allowed between club members.

9. Dogs participating in a trial shall be at least fifteen (15) months old for Greenland dogs, Siberian Huskies and Samoyeds up to 6 dogs teams and recommended eighteen (18) months old for Alaskan Malamutes as well as for dogs in 8 and more than 8 dogs teams. Dogs participating in trials have to be registered [in the FCI-NO or a valid FCI registry], vaccinated and ID-marked [tattoo or microchip] according to National rules.

10. Dogs that are not allowed to participate in a trial are:

1. A sick dog, an injured dog.
2. A pregnant bitch thirty (30) days before delivery and ten weeks after delivery.
3. A dog that has been given medication against FCI international guidelines for doping rules.

### **III. The Working Test .**

11. Each country may organise the working test according to its specific requirements. The indications hereafter show how it has been organised in Finland for several years.

12. A working test consists of several parts: driving and obedience, used to determine the level of the participating dogs. A dog may be entered either to the open class (team dog) or leading dog class (leader).

The number of dogs in a team is defined by the judge. In practice a team must include at least four dogs. Simultaneously one or two dogs in a team can be judged, or if the conditions so require, also some other number decided by the judge

13. The vehicle used must be such that it can safely carry two adults in cross-country terrain. The driving distance must be long enough with regard to the conditions, and it must include varying terrain. The distance shall be driven without breaks. The driver is allowed to help his team if the terrain so required. A working test is driven in terrain that includes a road or corresponding clear track, as well as terrain with no discernible track or course.

14. The driving section is driven in a terrain which includes:

- Road or corresponding clear track
- Terrain, where there is no clearly noted track

15. In the driving section the following parts are evaluated:

A: Action in crossings; B: U turn; C: Proceeding in terrain with no clear track; D: Stopping; E: meeting a moving vehicle; F: meeting and passing by another team; G: General manageability of dog; H: Willingness to work; I: Staying in one place (obedience); J: Behaviour.

The following merits are used in the Working test

<b>Excellent</b>	L1	<b>53-60 points</b>
<b>Good</b>	L2	<b>45-52 points</b>
<b>Accepted</b>	L3	<b>34-44 points</b>
<b>Disqualified</b>	L0	<b>Less than 34 points or 0 points in any of a-h parts or in evaluating conduct or co-operation</b>

Maximum total of 60 points.

### **16. Changes to rules and guidelines**

The National Kennel Club (NKC) verify the changes to these rules. The rules that the National Kennel Club has enclosed to these guidelines are verified by the National Kennel Club Board.

## The guidelines for judging the Working test

The following aspects are judged in a working test:

A	action in crossings	0–5 points
B	U-turn	0–5 points
C	progressing in terrain with no clear track	0–5 points
D	stopping	0–5 points
E	meeting a moving vehicle	0–5 points
F	meeting and passing by another team	0–5 points
G	general manageability of dog	0–5 points
H	willingness to work	0–10 points
I	staying in one place	0–5 points
J	behaviour	0–10 points

### Section A: action in crossings

Points	
4–5	Dog continues in the direction commanded by the driver
2–3	Dog continues in the right direction after several commands or has to be pushed/pulled to the right direction
1	Dog continues only after several commands and may cause the team to get entangled
0	Dog repeatedly chooses the wrong direction, does not obey the driver's commands, or causes the team to get entangled

### Section B: U turn

Points	
4–5	Dog turns around when commanded
2–3	Dog turns around after repeated commands
1	Dog turns only after several commands and may cause the team to get entangled
0	Dog repeatedly turns wrong, does not turn at all, or causes the team to get entangled

### Section C: proceeding in terrain with no clear track

Points	
4-5	Dog proceeds when commanded
2-3	Dog proceeds after several commands or directions
1	Dog proceeds only after repeated commands, or may cause the team to get entangled
0	Dog must be helped, or it causes the team to get entangled

### Section D: Stopping

Points	
4-5	Dog stops on command nearly without brake
2-3	Dog stops on command and driver uses brake
1	Dog does not stop without heavy braking
0	Dog completely disregards the command

### Section E: Meeting a moving vehicle

- The dog must not show excessive interest or fear of a motor vehicle.

Points	
4-5	No disturbance while passing
2-3	Dog is too fearful of, or interested in the vehicle
1	Dog is difficult to control or tries to run after the vehicle
0	Dog causes the team to get entangled

### Section F: Meeting and passing by another team.

Points	
4-5	No disturbance while passing
2-3	Dog is too fearful of, or interested in the other team
1	Dog is excessively interested in the other team
0	Dog tries to attack the other team, or causes the team(s) to get entangled

### Section G: general manageability of dog

- The dog may show normal interest in other animals, other dogs or other disturbances, but it must remain under the driver's control.

Points	
4-5	Dog is not susceptible to disturbances
2-3	Dog is susceptible to disturbances
1	Driver has to command the dog or stop the team to keep the dog under control
0	Dog does not remain under the driver's control

### Section H: Willingness to work

- The dog must show obvious willingness to work throughout the test.

Points	
9 -10	Dog works eagerly throughout the test
6-8	Dog works but is not too enthusiastic
1-5	Dog requires repeated encouragement or is not very willing to pull
0	Dog does not work enough

### Section I: Staying in one place.

The driver commands the team to stay in one place and remains near it.

The dog participating in the test must stay in place for five (5) minutes.

Points	
4-5	The participating dog is calm
2-3	Dog remains in place but is clearly restless
1	Driver has to tell the dog to stay in place
0	Dog causes unrest in the team

### Section J: Behaviour.

Dog's behaviour is evaluated throughout the trial.

Points	
9 -10	Dog is open towards strange dogs and people, and works in excellent cooperation with the other dogs in the team
6-8	Dog is relatively calm and works in cooperation with the other dogs in the team
1-5	Dog is susceptible to disturbances, or likes to show off, or causes minor confusión
0	Dog is aggressive or overly fearful towards other dogs or people, does not work in cooperation with the other dogs in the team, or causes disorder

17. The chief judge gives the final evaluation of the dog's overall performance in writing, and may point out some good and bad points of the dog. In the final evaluation the chief judge is allowed to add 1–3 points to the total score or deduct the same number of points if there is a good reason to do so.

18. It is recommended that the minimum time and distance for the working test be 30 minutes and/or 5 km.

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19. It is recommended that in order to get the working certificate this working test be combined with a racing test.

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### **III-B The Working Test (Swedish/ Norwegian model)**

Applies to Alaskan Malamute, Greenland dog and Samoyed in pulka-style and sled style on snow.

Distance: 10 km.

Time for Excellent level: maximum 55 minutes;

Time for Accepted level: maximum 60 minutes (both attributing WCC)

Draft load:

Team size	Draft load		
	Alaskan Malamute	Greenland dog	Samoyed
1-dog team	30	25	17
2-dogs team	50	45	35
3-dogs team	65	60	45
4-dogs team	75	70	55

If one or more bitches compete in the team, the draft load is reduced with a total of 5 kg.

*In Norway and Sweden tests have to be **minimum 10 km.** in order to allow for delivery of WCC (entrance in working dog class at national level).*

## **IV. The Racing Test**

19. The Racing test is held at sled dog races of sprint, mid or long distance and stage races (stage races on snow only in sled style or pulka style).

20. This test only concerns dogs namely and has nothing to do with the classification of mushers that is done by race organisers. Since many years mushers get a classification but nobody knows the dogs that are racing.

21. The dog's result must be traceable from the breed club and National Kennel Club.

22. On the race, the sled driver must conform to the race rules and organisers prescriptions. Any fraud to the rules will be sanctioned along the existing rules. In case something happens that is not covered by any rule, the decision of the working judge will be the final decision.

23. The team in which the dog is competing for the working certificate can only be composed of dogs of one of the four FCI sled dog breeds (Alaskan Malamute, Greenland dog, Samoyede or Siberian Husky) with official FCI recognised pedigrees. In case one or more dogs of a team do not correspond to the standard, the working judge is allowed to disqualify the team from the racing test, but not from the race. Dog examination must be done before the start of the first heat and at the latest at vet check. If a dog has got a "Good" or higher level result at a dog show, it is authorised to participate. The owner must always bring proper documentation for verification purpose.

24. A working judge approved by the National Kennel Club must be present at the racing test.

25. The working judge must check on the finish line - before the team goes to the stake-out - the identification number of the dog(s). He may be helped in this task by a secretary/steward.

26. The inscription of the dog(s) to the race must be in line with the condition requested by the organiser of the race and within the requested deadlines. In addition, for the racing test the deadlines are these of the relevant breed clubs.

27. Each breed club will propose the races on which the racing test will be organised for their breed(s), according to the national race calendar. Mushers willing to enter the racing tests for their dog(s) must make the appropriate inscription using the application form issued by the relevant breed club together with the payment of the fee and within the deadlines fixed by the breed club

***These inscriptions are totally independent from the inscription to the race !***

28. At the day of the race, dog owners must give to the working judge, in good time before the race, according to the rules of the organisation, the work forms of the dogs that will take part in the racing test.

29. When calculating the base time, only teams consisting of dogs of the same breed are counted. In order to get a merit a dog must have run the total distance. A dog which is dropped out of the race does not get a merit.

30. Three sprint races, two middle, one long distance (more than 250 km) races, or one stage race are the minimum requested to validate and grant the working certificate.

31. To get its working certificate “accepted” a dog must have run and finished the race of the racing test in a team that finished within 150% of the average time of the first three teams of its class. This working certificate is needed to enter the “Working Class” in a national or international dog show.

32. In order to get its working certificate “Excellent”, a dog must have been racing and finishing the test race within 110% of the average time of the first three teams of its class. This working certificate excellent “allows” to the delivery of CACT.

## **V. Delivery of CACT**

33. An approved national working judge must be present at all working certificate tests (races). This judge will be entitled to deliver the CACT.

34. In order to get its CACT certificate, it is recommended that a dog runs and finishes the test race in a team that finishes first of the race in its class or have finished within 110 % of the winners time, with a minimum of three participating teams.

## **VI. National Working Champion:**

35. The homologation by the National Kennel Club of the title of Working Champion will be done once the dog will have been awarded three CACT certificates. The title of National Working Champion will only be homologated when the dog will have been awarded an Excellent, Very Good or Good in a dog show. And complies with all national requirements.

36. For countries that uses the working test, it is recommended that a national working champion can be homologated when the dog gets the highest level in Lead Dog Class (level 1) combined with the CACT of a racing test. The title of National Working Champion will only be homologated when the dog will have been awarded an Excellent, Very Good or Good in a dog show. And complies with all national requirements.

## **VII. Protests:**

37. Any protest on the working or racing test event by a participant must be done in writing according to national rules.

## ANNEX 1 (revised 17/May/2014)

### Length of the trails

1. It may be important that the racing tests be comparable within different countries. For that reason some minimal distances may be required for racing tests. These distances could be for each heat:

- For "Sprint races": Recommended minimum:

5 km/ day	on a 2 days snow race	in D class (2 dogs);
8 km/ day	on a 2 days snow race	in C class (4 dogs);
12 km/ day		in Pulka class;
12 km/ day		in B class (6 dogs);
16 km/ day		in A class (8 dogs);
20 km/day		in O Class (9+ dogs)

5 km/day	on a 2 days dryland race	in D and scooter classes;
6 km/day		in C class;
8 km/day		in B class;
10 km/day		in A and O class.

- For "mid-distance": 25 km/day on a 2 days-mid distance race in D or C class;  
on snow 35 km/day on a 2 days mid distance race in B or Pulka class;  
40km/day on a 2 days mid distance race in A and O class.

- For "long distance on snow": 250 km.

-For "Stage races": 150 km. (Tested dogs must run the complete race, all heats).

For Dryland mid-distance races, the recommended minimum lengths should be:

- Scooter 1 or 2 dogs: 10 km
- Carts 2 dogs and 4 dogs classes : 10 km
- 6 dogs class and pulka "cart" : 15 km
- 8 dogs class and more : 25 km

These distances are just given as a possibility for minimum distances.