

<b>Title</b>	Standard for Public Safety Qualification: Tactical Rappel Operator		
<b>Qualification</b>	IPSQA Award in Public Safety (Tactical Rappel)		
<b>Standard</b>	5013	<b>Version</b>	2025
<b>Level</b>	4	<b>Credits</b>	8
<b>Postnominal</b>	n/a	<b>Code</b>	TACR

<b>Graduate Profile</b>	Graduates of this certification are able to conduct tactical rope access to make high angle entry whilst managing weapons for law enforcement or military purposes.
-------------------------	---

<b>Subject Area</b>	Law Enforcement.
---------------------	------------------

<b>Prerequisite(s)</b>	IPSQA Certificate in Public Safety (Limited Rope Access); and IPSQA Award in Public Safety (Defensive Tactics); and Local regulatory approval to use appointments and/or firearms.
------------------------	--

---

**Special notes:**

- 1 This standard is not intended for those fast roping or providing response to stretcher-based patient retrieval.
- 2 Assessment against this standard shall require the candidate to manage the use of appointments or firearms. Such firearms may be actual or training versions. No live ammunition shall be used as part of assessment.
- 3 If live canines are used as part of the assessment, such use shall be consistent to the Police Dog Welfare Standard (National Police Chiefs Council, UK) or local similar such standard.
- 4 Skill and knowledge performance must be consistent with approved industry references as prescribed by IPSQA.
- 5 For the purposes of assessment, where single rope technique is used, an independent safety, back up device or fall mat shall be used.

---

## Assessment Outcomes

### Knowledge requirements

- K1 Recall the safety duties of those involved in tactical rope operations.  
*Range: rappel, lower, safety, command.*
- K2 Describe systems for tactical rope operations.  
*Range: single rope, micro-rope, self-belay, ground belay, safety belay, back up device.*
- K3 Recognise tactical rope hazards and identify suitable risk management controls.  
*Range: Must include, but not limited to: falling objects, tethering of tools, subject interference or threat, elevators, towers.*
- K4 Identify specialist equipment used for tactical rope operations and describe their use.  
*Range: cut and heat-resistant rope, tactical harnesses, tactical helmet, tactical descender, leg mounted rope bags, micro-rope systems, canine lifting harness.*
- K5 Identify specifications, indications and contraindications for equipment used for tactical rope operations.  
*Range: rope, harness, karabiner, backup device, helmet, descender, ascender, edge protection.*

### Skill requirements

- S1 Perform pre-use inspection of tactical rope operations equipment.
- S2 Carry out dynamic risk assessment and implement risk management controls.
- S3 Don personal protective equipment for tactical rope operations.  
*Range: harness, helmet, buddy check completed.*
- S4 Identify and rig simple load-sharing anchors for tactical rope operations.  
*Range: anchor, connectors, sling, rope protection.*
- S5 Rig and operate mechanical descender used for tactical rope operations.  
*Range: May include but not limited to OMER1, Petzl Rig, SPARK, CTOMS.*
- S6 Rig and operate non-mechanical descender used for tactical rope operations.  
*Range: May include but not limited to Figure 8, Rescue 8, Goldtail.*
- S7 Rig and operate micro-rope descending system.  
*Range: May include but not limited to: ISC D1PRO, Sterling F4, CMC LEVR, Petzl EXO, 4.1 Rapid Rappel.*
- S8 Rig and operate contingency anchor system to lower on-rope operator.
- S9 Operate belay techniques for tactical rappel activities.  
*Range: self, ground.*

- S10 Perform tactical window and balcony entries on rappel.  
*Range: tactical PPE, weapon management, team communication, limited visibility, noise distractions.*
- S11 Perform tactical at-height restraint of subject person.  
*Range: armed offender or suicidal subject.*
- S12 Execute emergency plan for tactical rope operations operation.  
*Range: recover suspended tactical operator to safety, contingency/releasable anchor system operation.*
- S13 Prepare and rig canine for high angle entry or access.  
*Range: live or manikin.*
- S14 Carry out post-use inspection and maintenance of tactical rope operations equipment.
- S15 Log tactical rope operations activity.

### Professional requirements

- P1 Verified logged experience rigging tactical rope operations system at 2 different locations.
- P2 Verified logged experience descending no less than 10m using tactical rope techniques including weapon management at 2 different locations.
- P3 Inspect and log maintenance of tactical rope operations equipment following use, at 2 of any of the activities undertaken above (P1-P2).

---

### Assessment discrepancies (skills)

#### Minor

- O1 Equipment used against manufacturer caution notice.
- O2 Performance against approved reference caution notice.
- O3 Poor of slow technique that may lead to safety issue.
- O4 Excessive time to perform task.
- O5 Equipment left behind.
- O6 Poor communication/signal with team or others to achieve task.
- O7 Bunching, tangles or marginal slack in rope.
- O8 Logs not clearly legible.
- O9 Helmet unsecured in hot zone (i.e. unfastened chin strap).
- O10 Equipment dropped not causing injury.
- O11 Uncontrolled movement of load or dynamic loading – minor.

**Major**

- X1 Excessive time to complete task.
- X2 Unable to complete given task.
- X3 Breach of local law, regulation, statutory directive or dog welfare standard.
- X4 Action or inaction that causes or likely to cause injury.
- X5 Excessive slack in edge-restraint or work positioning when in warm zone.
- X6 Uncontrolled movement of load or dynamic loading– major.
- X7 Inadequate edge-protection when unprotected edge is a hazard.
- X8 No helmet in hot zone.
- X9 Uncontrolled descent.
- X10 Minimum equipment not used or carried.
- X11 Breach of IPSQA Code of Conduct.
- X12 Candidate instructed to stop by assessor due to medical concern.
- X13 Equipment used against manufacturer warning notice.
- X14 Performance against approved reference warning notice.
- X15 Fails to maintain safety while at height, including not performing buddy check.
- X16 Fails to maintain safety while transitioning from place of safety to rope system.

---

<b>Certification period</b>	3 years
<b>Re-certification requirements</b>	Re-assessment of Part B.
<b>Pre-Requisite Map</b>	IPSQA Award in Public Safety (Defensive Tactics) └ CorePass® First Aid I