

Title	PSQA Award in Public Safety (Electric Control Device) Operator		
Qualification	IPSQA Award in Public Safety (Electronic Control Device)		
Standard	5014	Version	2025
Level	4	Credits	6
Postnominal	n/a	Code	TAZR

Graduate Profile	Graduates are able to operate an Electronic Control Device (ECD), such as a conducted energy weapon, lawfully and safely within organisational protocols, demonstrating sound judgement, control, and aftercare responsibilities during public safety operations.
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Subject Area	Law Enforcement.
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Prerequisite(s)	IPSQA Award in Public Safety (Defensive Tactics)
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Special notes:

- 1 Electronic Control Device (ECD) may also be known as propriety term such as Taser®.
- 2 Assessment must align with local laws, use-of-force frameworks, and agency standard operating procedures (SOPs).
- 3 Manufacturer current user guidance must be followed for device model, cartridges, battery systems, and accessories.
- 4 Skills and assessments must be conducted under realistic, safe, and controlled conditions with role-players and suitable PPE, including eye protection, gloves, and body armour as applicable.
- 5 For Live probe deployments, if permitted, must use approved training cartridges and enhanced medical oversight; otherwise, use inert or simulation cartridges and training probes.
- 6 Communication devices and documentation used must reflect operational practice.
- 7 Assessment of judgement should include scenario complexity, presence of bystanders, environmental hazards, and de-escalation opportunities.

- 8 Professional requirements may be met using an IPSQA-approved simulator where specified.
- 9 Use of firearm by candidate is not permitted for this standard.

Assessment Outcomes

Part A: Knowledge (Theory) Requirements

- K1 Define ECD operating principles and effects on the human neuromuscular system, including Neuromuscular Incapacitation (NMI) vs pain compliance.
- K2 Identify ECD components.
Range: cartridge types, battery systems, safety features.
- K3 Describe local laws, authorisations, and reporting obligations governing ECD.
- K4 Explain the agency use-of-force model and proportionality, necessity, and reasonableness tests for ECD deployment.
- K5 Distinguish probe mode, drive-stun, and angled-drive tactics, including intended effects and limitations
- K6 Describe pre-operational checks, function tests, and fault indications for the assigned device.
- K7 Explain targeting guidelines, preferred probe spread, and avoidance zones to mitigate elevated risk areas.
- K8 Analyse environmental and situational hazards.
Range: flammables, precipitous edges, water, flammable, propellants, confined spaces, crowds.
- K9 Summarise contraindications and elevated-risk populations, and how to mitigate associated risks.
- K10 Describe de-escalation, communication, and warnings, including synchronisation with cover officers.
- K11 Explain post-deployment responsibilities: control, restraint, aftercare, probe removal protocols, and medical referral criteria.
- K12 Describe evidence preservation, scene management, and continuity.
Range: cartridges, wires, probes, data-port download, video.
- K13 Explain data recording, statement structure, and required documentation for ECD incidents.
- K14 Interpret device logs and video to reconcile timeline, cycles delivered, and user inputs.
- K15 Evaluate decision-making in complex scenarios, incorporating de-escalation opportunities and disengagement thresholds.

Part B: Skills (Practical) Requirements

- S1 Conduct pre-shift ECD inspection and function test; document status.
- S2 Don required PPE and configure holster, cartridges, and retention system for duty use.
- S3 Demonstrate safe draw, muzzle discipline, trigger finger indexing, and reholster under control
- S4 Issue clear, lawful commands and warnings; coordinate with cover officers and communicate intent
- S5 Select appropriate mode (probe/drive-stun/angled-drive) based on threat and environment; justify choice.
- S6 Achieve stable firing platform; illuminate and aim using fixed or laser sights; confirm backdrop and bystanders.
- S7 Deploy single-cartridge probe shot on a static target to obtain optimal probe spread within device parameters.
- S8 Transition to a follow-up control tactic to achieve NMI where necessary and lawful
- S9 Coordinate team takedown and restraint during ECD cycle to minimise duration and struggle.
- S10 Cease cycling promptly upon control and reassess; avoid unnecessary or repeated cycles.
- S11 Perform probe removal in accordance with policy or arrange clinical removal when indicated; package sharps safely
- Range: gloves, bloodborne infection risk*
- S12 Provide aftercare.
- Range: monitor airway, breathing, circulation; place in recovery position if indicated; treat minor punctures.*
- S13 Identify and escalate for urgent medical evaluation where risk factors or symptoms are present.
- S14 Locate and preserve evidence.
- Range: secure spent cartridge, wires, blast doors, graffiti dots and probes; label and bag items. (NB may use UV light to locate dots)*
- S15 Capture device data and video; complete device download and attach to appropriate file per SOP.
- S16 Complete incident reports, use-of-force forms, and statements with accurate timelines and cycle counts.
- S17 Perform malfunction drills.
- Range: failure to fire, cartridge seating, battery replacement, remedial action.*

- S18 Transition to alternative force options safely when ECD is ineffective or contraindicated.
- S19 Manage a subject in a flammables risk environment by disengaging ECD and applying alternative tactics.
- S20 Conduct dynamic scenario with bystanders, limited backdrop, and communication challenges; demonstrate proportionality and de-escalation.
- S21 Coordinate multi-officer arrest while maintaining crossfire and contamination control discipline.
- S22 Recommission ECD post-incident:
Range: rearm, replace cartridges, inspect, function check, and document readiness.
- S23 Brief and debrief team, articulating decisions, risks, and lessons identified.
- S24 Secure and store ECD and accessories in accordance with policy and manufacturer guidance.
Range: disarm, charging.
- S25 Present verbal justification of force used, referencing legal test, SOP, and device data.

Professional requirements

- P1 Verified logged exposure to at least 5 supervised ECD training scenarios across varied environments (indoor, low light, public space).
- P2 Verified logged operational or exercise experience participating in 3 team arrests involving less-lethal options (ECD or alternatives).
- P3 Inspect Declaration of no pending or upheld excessive force complaints within 12 months, verified by supervisor.

Assessment discrepancies (skills)**Minor**

- O1 Poor or slow technique that may lead to safety issue.
- O2 Excessive time to perform task.
- O3 Incorrect or poor use of equipment.
- O4 Equipment not correctly configured or left unsecured.
- O5 Poor communication with team or subject.
- O6 Inadequate backdrop or bystander awareness without immediate risk created
- O7 Documentation lacks clarity but remains substantially accurate.

Major

- X1 Excessive time to complete critical task creating risk.
- X2 Task not completed.
- X3 Breach of local law, regulation, or statutory directive.
- X4 Action or inaction that causes or likely to cause injury.
- X5 Deployment in presence of known flammable environment or ignition risk.
- X6 Failure to cease cycling upon control or absent ongoing threat.
- X7 Failure to provide aftercare or to summon medical assistance when indicated.
- X8 Failure to preserve evidence or to secure sharps safely.
- X9 Failure to download or preserve device data when required.
- X10 Breach of IPSQA Code of Conduct.
- X11 Candidate instructed to stop by assessor due to medical concern.
- X12 Fraud, cheating, or coaching.

Certification period	36 months. Annual Skills Check recommended.
Re-certification requirements	<p>Completion of 8 hours continuing professional development focused on legal updates, device updates, and scenario refreshers.</p> <p>Re-assessment of Part B Skills (selected critical tasks and scenario), plus verification of current first aid certification.</p>
Pre-Requisite Map	IPSQA Award in Public Safety (Defensive Tactics) ↳ CorePass® First Aid I