



POST Approved Red Dot Sight Instructor Requirements

In response to emerging trends in law enforcement and firearms technology, the POST Board, in collaboration with the Firearms SME Committee, amended POST Rules 23 and 24 to address the increased use of red dot sights (RDS) by Colorado law enforcement agencies and training academies.

What are the new requirements for academy Firearms Instructors?

New requirements are being implemented for all full and assistant Firearms instructors teaching in any POST-approved academy.

Rule 23(c)(II)(D): Effective January 1, 2024, all current full skill instructors and applicants for full skills instructor must complete a POST-approved 16-hour red dot sight instructor course.

Rule 23(b)(II)(C): Effective January 1, 2025, all assistant skills instructors for firearms must complete a 16-hour red dot sight POST approved instructor course.

In support of this change, the Firearms SME committee developed a POST-approved red dot sight instructor program curriculum. This curriculum also goes into effect on January 1, 2024. The Firearms Committee is currently in the process of reviewing and approving RDS Instructor courses ahead of the curriculum's effective date.

I'm already a full skills instructor; do I need to reapply with an RDS instructor certificate?

No; if you were approved as a full skills instructor in Firearms prior to January 1, 2024, you do not need to reapply or submit proof that you completed an RDS instructor course. However, your RDS instructor course certificate of completion must be on file at your academy and available upon request by POST or during an inspection or audit.

I completed an RDS instructor course before 2024, do I need to take another POST-approved course?

If you completed an RDS instructor course prior to the implementation date, you do not need to take another course, provided that the instructor program you completed was a minimum of 16 hours. If

your course was less than 16 hours, you will need to complete a POST-approved course to fulfill the requirements of Rule 23.

I'm an academy director, what do I need to do?

As the academy director, you are responsible for ensuring that your instructors are in compliance with Rule 23 and that you can provide the appropriate and necessary training certificates to POST upon request or during inspections and audits. Per Rule 24(d)(XII), each academy shall ensure that all firearms instructors meet current minimum requirements for full and assistant skills instructors in accordance with POST Rule 23.

My agency doesn't have an academy; does this apply to our internal Firearms instructors?

No. These rule changes only impact POST-approved full and assistant skills instructors, as defined in POST Rule 1 and governed by POST Rule 23. Agency instructors are not subject to the same requirements, and do not need complete a RDS instructor course unless they are also teaching at an approved basic, refresher, or reserve training academy.

How can I find a POST-approved RDS Instructor Course to attend?

Please refer to the event calendar on POST's [website](#) for training opportunities.

I teach an RDS Instructor course – how do I get my course POST Approved?

You will need to submit your RDS course for review and approval by the Firearms SME Committee. A copy of the new RDS instructor curriculum is available on POST's website. Please refer to POST Rule 25 for more information on new program requirements and the approval process.

If you have additional questions, please contact POST Firearms SME liaison Mary Vekasy at mary.vekasy@coag.gov.