

NACSW™ Trial

Container Guidelines for Members

Effective September 1, 2020

In order to continue to provide a trial experience that is as consistent as possible for our competitors, we have developed guidelines that provide parameters for container types and sizes that may be encountered at an NACSW™ trial. Minor variations to the guidelines may be approved on a case by case basis, but we hope this helps everyone have a better understanding of what they can expect at trials. We also hope that this helps our competitors better prepare in training. However, we also encourage everyone to continue to train on many variations of containers outside of these parameters to help the dog have experience in as many odor scenarios as possible.

Venting containers

- Cardboard containers do not need any holes added for venting. The exception is the heavy 2 piece style with cap lids (lids that overlap the side of the box). The holes should be on the larger size, 1/4", for these lids as the cardboard fibers can fill up the holes.
- Plastic and metal containers must have securely fitting lids with holes in the lid to allow odor to vent.
- Containers should have 3 holes in the lid.
- The holes should be made using a drill bit size should be 3/16". Variation between 1/8" to 1/4" is acceptable. This is approximately the diameter of the pointed end of a chopstick.
- Holes should be in the center of the lid of the container and approximately 1.5" from each other.



NW1

Cardboard literature mailers without side flaps should be available all NW1 trials.

Size requirements

Length 8" – 12"

Width 6" – 10"

Height 2.75" – 7.5"

Plastic shoe boxes with non-transparent lids may also be used. If these have transparent sides, boxes will be stuffed with new, clean paper.

Size requirements

Length 8" – 14"

Width 6" – 10"

Height 2.75" – 7.5"

NW2 & NW3

Below is a list of containers that may be used at an NW2 or NW3 trial.

Cardboard

Cardboard literature mailers without side flaps.

Size requirements

Length 8" – 12"

Width 6" – 10"

Height 2.75" – 7.5"

Cardboard triangle mailing tubes

Size requirements

Length 12" – 24"

Width/Height 2.75" – 7.5"

Cardboard rectangle mailing tubes

Size requirements

Length 12" – 24"

Width/Height 2.75" – 7.5"

Plastic

Lids should be non-transparent. If the base of the containers are transparent, they will be stuffed with new, clean paper.

Tool boxes (Dollar Tree tool boxes do not need any holes drilled for venting as their construction allows for adequate ventilation)

Size requirements

Length 8" – 14"

Width 4" – 10"

Height 2.75" – 7.5"

Shoe boxes with non-transparent lids

Size requirements

Length 8" – 14"

Width 6" – 10"

Height 2.75" – 7.5"

Round/oval plastic storage containers/buckets/jugs with non-transparent lids

Size requirements

Diameter 5" – 9"

Height 2.75" – 7.5"

Standard sized plastic gallon paint can

Size requirements

Diameter approximately 6.5"

Height approximately 7.5"

Metal

Standard sized metal gallon paint cans

Size requirements

Diameter approximately 6.5"

Height approximately 7.5"

Metal Lunch boxes (these are adult sized lunch boxes)

Size requirements

Length 8" – 12"

Width 6" – 10"

Height 2.75" – 7.5"

Metal cookie type tins round/oval

Size requirements

Diameter 6" - 10"

Height 2.75" - 7.5"

Metal cookie type tins square/rectangle

Size requirements

Length 8" – 12"

Width 6" – 10"

Height 2.75" – 7.5"

Element Specialty Trials (EST)

ESTs can have more variety in the types of containers that are used. However containers need to be of a size that is visually obvious to the dog and handler. In order for this to be the case you should not use a box when all dimensions are of the smallest size on the list below. We would not want to see a box that is 4.5" x 4.5" and only 2" high. However, a 4.5" x 4.5" x 5" would be more visually obvious to the dog and handler. Another example of a box that fits the guidelines with a lower profile is a small pizza box. The height is only 2" but they are generally 8" x 8" or larger. One other way to determine if the container is large enough is to calculate the volume. Volume of a container can be calculated by multiplying the length X width X height. A container that is 5" x 5" x 5" has a volume of 125 in³. Our minimum recommended volume is 100 in³.

Level 1 Container ESTs

Cardboard literature type mailers without side flaps.

Size requirements

Length 8" – 12"

Width 6" – 10"

Height 2.75" – 7.5"

Plastic shoe boxes with non-transparent lids.

Size requirements

Length 8" – 14"

Width 6" – 10"
Height 2" – 7.5"

The other types of containers may be a variety of cardboard boxes. Some examples of other types of boxes are: triangle mailer boxes, pizza boxes, gable boxes and gift boxes.

Minor size variations may be approved on a case by case basis.

Containers should be of a size that is visually obvious to the dog and handler.

Boxes should close securely (won't easily come open if knocked over or pawed) and be sturdy enough for a nose work search (not smashed or scratched too easily).

Typical size requirements

Length 4" – 12"

Width 4" – 10"

Height 2" – 7.5"

Level 2 & 3 Container Element Specialty

All containers listed above for NW2 & NW3 can be used in L2 & L3 ESTs.

Cardboard literature type mailers without side flaps.

Size requirements

Length 8" – 12"

Width 6" – 10"

Height 2" – 7.5"

The other types of containers may be a variety of cardboard, metal and plastic.

Typical size requirements

Length 4" – 12"

Width 4" – 10"

Height 2" – 7.5"

Elite & Summit

Elite and Summit trials often do not have a container search. If there is a container search, it may be made up of any of the containers listed above and may also include backpacks, suitcases and luggage types of containers.