



Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency

Serving San Bernardino, Inyo, and Mono Counties

Virginia Hastings, Executive Director
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DATE: April 11, 2011

TO: ALS, BLS, EMS Aircraft Provider Chief's, CEO's and EMS/Paramedic Coordinators
EMS Training Programs and Continuing Education Providers

FROM: Reza Vaezazizi, MD, ICEMA Medical Director *[Signature]* Virginia Hastings, ICEMA Executive Director *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: STATE EMT CERTIFICATION

It has come to our attention that there may be some confusion regarding the requirements for certification of EMT's at the local fire departments.

An EMT functioning without State certification is in violation of the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Prehospital Emergency Medical Services, Chapter 2, Emergency Medical Technician. Noncompliance with state regulations may result in loss of certification, loss of ability to practice as an EMT in California and possible prosecution. Regulations apply to all agencies providing pre-hospital emergency medical care including First Responders, EMTs, Advanced EMTs and EMT-Paramedics.

Certification requirements include:

1. Be a minimum of eighteen (18) years of age
2. Complete a criminal record clearance by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the FBI
3. Possess a current and valid National Registry EMT (NREMT) Basic Card
4. Obtain State certification with a local certifying entity (ICEMA)

Possession of the NREMT card is **not** State certification and does not meet the requirements for practicing as an EMT. To obtain certification, individuals must submit an application with ICEMA, meet certification requirements and pay the required fees as outlined in ICEMA Protocol #1030 - EMT Certification. A copy of this protocol is enclosed for your review.

If any EMS personnel within your department have not completed the State certification process, please have them come to the office as soon as possible. The application and certification requirements are also available on the ICEMA website at www.ICEMA.net.

If you should have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Denice Wicker-Stiles at (909) 388-5831 or via e-mail at dwicker-stiles@cao.sbcounty.gov.

RV/VH/jlm



EMT CERTIFICATION/RECERTIFICATION

PURPOSE

To define requirements for the certification/recertification of an eligible individual as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) recognized in the State of California by the ICEMA Medical Director.

AUTHORITY

Health and Safety Code Division 2.5, Section 1797.210, Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Section 100079 and California Penal Code, Section 11105.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Be eighteen (18) years of age or older.
2. Complete a criminal record clearance by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Refer to Procedure Reference #1090.
3. Possess a current and valid National Registry EMT (NREMT) Basic certificate.

NOTE: *EMTs shall only be certified by one (1) certifying entity during a certification period.*

PROCEDURES

Initial Certification

1. Submit the appropriate ICEMA application with:
 - a. Current government issued photo identification.
 - b. Fee as set by ICEMA. Fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.
 - c. Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) fee for Central Registry. **Payment must be either a money order or cashier check made payable to EMT Certification Fund.**
 - d. Copy of front and back of current signed BLS CPR Health Care Provider Card. (American Heart Association (AHA) or equivalent. Online course is acceptable with written documentation of skills portion.)

- e. Copy of current and valid NREMT card.
 - f. Sign affidavit that applicant is not precluded from certification for reasons defined in Section 1798.200 of the Health and Safety Code and the following statement:

“I hereby certify **under penalty of perjury** that all information on this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I understand that any falsification or omission of material facts may cause forfeiture on my part of all rights to EMT certification in the state of California. I understand all information on this application is subject to verification, and I hereby give my express permission for this certifying entity to contact any person or agency for information related to my role and function as an EMT in California.”
 - g. Disclose any certification or licensure action taken against any health related license, EMT, Advanced EMT, EMT-II certificate or paramedic license. This includes any denial of certification by a local EMS Agency, or in the case of an EMT-P, licensure denial/action by the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA), active investigations and actions taken in other states.
 - h. Comply with other requirements as may be set forth herein.
2. ICEMA must be notified of any changes in address during the certification period, within thirty (30) days.

Other Qualifying Categories for Initial Certification

1. An individual currently licensed in California as a Paramedic or currently certified in California as an Advanced EMT or EMT-II is deemed to be certified as an EMT with no further testing required **EXCEPT** when the paramedic license or Advanced EMT or EMT-II certification is under suspension.
2. An individual who possesses a current and valid NREMT-Basic registration certificate.
3. An individual who possesses a current and valid out of state or NREMT-Intermediate or paramedic license.

4. An individual who possesses a current and valid out of state EMT certificate must obtain a NREMT (Basic) card, and comply with all requirements above, under Initial EMT Certification.

Effective Dates

1. The effective date of certification shall be the date the individual has applied and satisfactorily completed all certification requirements. Certification shall be valid for a maximum two (2) years from the date the individual passes the National Registry exam except in the following cases:
 - a. A person who possesses a current and valid out-of-state EMT-Intermediate or paramedic licensure or a current and valid NREMT Basic, Intermediate or paramedic certification, the expiration date shall be the same expiration date as the out of state EMT card, paramedic license or NREMT card.
 - b. Certification shall not exceed two (2) years from the effective date of the EMT card issued by another California EMT certifying entity. The certification expiration date will be the final day of the final month of the two (2) year period.

EMT Recertification

To recertify as an EMT, an individual shall:

1. Possess current EMT certification issued in California.
2. If required, complete criminal history background check (LiveScan). Requirements are outlined in Protocol Reference #1090.
3. If qualifying LiveScan was conducted prior to July 1, 2010, pay established EMSA recertification fee for central registry.

If qualifying LiveScan was **not** conducted prior to July 1, 2010, pay established EMSA initial certification fee for central registry.

4. Submit the appropriate ICEMA application with:
 - a. Fee as set by ICEMA. Fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.
 - b. Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) fee for Central Registry. **Payment must be either a money order or cashier check made payable to EMT Certification Fund.**

- (1) If there is not a LiveScan on file with Central Registry, the EMSA established fee is \$75.
 - (2) If there is a LiveScan on file with Central Registry, the EMSA established fee is \$37.
- c. Copy of front and back of current signed BLS CPR Health Care Provider Card. (American Heart Association (AHA) or equivalent. Online course is acceptable with written documentation of skills portion.)
 - d. Original skills competency verification form, EMSA-SCV (08/10).
 - e. Sign affidavit that applicant is not precluded from certification for reasons defined in Section 1798.200 of the Health and Safety Code and the following statement:

“I hereby certify **under penalty of perjury** that all information on this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I understand that any falsification or omission of material facts may cause forfeiture on my part of all rights to EMT certification in the state of California. I understand all information on this application is subject to verification, and I hereby give my express permission for this certifying entity to contact any person or agency for information related to my role and function as an EMT in California.”
 - f. Disclose any certification or licensure action taken against any health related license, EMT, Advanced EMT, EMT-II certificate or paramedic license. This includes any denial of certification by a LEMSA or in the case of an EMT-P, licensure denial by the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA). This includes active investigations and actions taken in other states.
 - g. Provide documentation of completion of a twenty-four (24) hour refresher course from an approved EMT training program **or** obtain at least twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education (CE) hours from an approved continuing education provider per Protocol Reference #3020 Continuing Education Provider Policy and Protocol Reference #3030 EMT Continuing Education Requirements.
 - h. ICEMA must be notified of any changes in address during the certification period, within thirty (30) days.

- i. ICEMA must be notified of any changes in address during the certification period, within thirty (30) days.
- j. Comply with other requirements as may be set forth herein.

Effective Dates

The effective date of certification for currently certified EMTs shall be:

1. If requirements are met within six (6) months prior to the expiration date, the effective date of certification shall be the expiration date of the current certificate.
2. If requirements are met more than six (6) months prior to the expiration date, the effective date of certification shall be the date the individual satisfactorily completes all certification requirements and has applied for certification. The expiration date shall not exceed two (2) years and shall be the final day of the final month of the two (2) year period.

EMT Certification with a Lapsed California EMT, Advanced EMT, EMT-II Certification or Paramedic License

An individual with a lapsed EMT, Advanced EMT, EMT-II certificate or EMT-P License is eligible for EMT certification if they complete item numbers two through four (2-4) above under EMT Recertification ***and***

1. Lapse of less than six (6) months:
 - a. Obtain at least twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education hours from an approved continuing education provider, per Protocol Reference #3020 Continuing Education Provider Policy, ***or***
 - b. Successfully complete a twenty-four (24) hour refresher course from an approved EMT training program.
2. Lapse of six (6) months or more, but less than twelve (12) months:
 - a. Complete an additional twelve (12) hours of continuing education for a total of thirty-six (36) hours of training.
3. Lapse of twelve (12) months or more, but less than twenty-four (24) months:
 - a. Complete an additional twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education for a total of forty-eight (48) hours ***and***
 - b. Pass the National Registry Exam.

4. Lapse of twenty-four (24) months or more:
 - a. Complete an entire EMT course *and*
 - b. Comply with the initial certification requirements set forth in this protocol.

Military Personnel

1. An individual who is a member of the reserves and is deployed for active duty with a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, whose California EMT certificate expires during the time the individual is on active duty or less than six (6) months from the date the individual is deactivated/released from active duty, may be given an extension of the expiration date of the individual's EMT certificate for up to six (6) months from the date of the individuals deactivation/released from active duty in order to meet the renewal requirements for EMT certification upon compliance with the following provisions:
 - a. Comply with EMT Recertification requirements listed above.
 - b. Provide documentation from the respective branch of the Armed Forces of the United States verifying the date of activation and deactivation/release from duty.
 - c. Provide documentation of twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education. Documentation must include proof that continuing education hours were not obtained more than thirty (30) calendar days prior to effective date of certification prior to activation of duty or greater than six (6) months from the date of deactivation/return from duty.
 - d. For those individuals whose active duty required use of EMT skills, credit may be given for documented training that meets the requirements of Chapter 11, EMS CE Regulations (Division 9, Title 22, California Code of Regulations) while the individual was on active duty. The documentation shall include verification from the commanding officer attesting to the classes attended.

Effective Dates

The effective date of certification shall be the date the individual satisfactorily completes all certification requirements and has applied for certification. The expiration date shall not exceed two (2) years and shall be the final day of the final month of the two (2) year period, except those individuals required to pass the National Registry examinations, the expiration date shall be the last day of the final month for the two (2) year period following the date the individual passed the NREMT written exam.