

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT)
CERTIFICATION AND RECERTIFICATION****I. AUTHORITY:**

Health and Safety Code sections 1797.107, 1797.109, 1797.170 and 1797.175, 1797.61, 1797.62, 1797.63, 1797.118, 1797.177, 1797.185, 1797.210 and 1797.216,

California Code of Regulations Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 2, sections 100058, 100059, 100059.1, 100078- 100081.

II. APPLICATION:

This policy describes the criteria and application process for Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification and recertification through Orange County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS)

III. DEFINITIONS:

Emergency Medical Technician: "Emergency Medical Technician," "EMT-Basic," or "EMT" means a person who has successfully completed an EMT course that meets the requirements of this policy, has passed all required tests, and has been certified by a California EMT certifying entity.

EMSA: the Emergency Medical Services Authority

EMT Certifying Entity: the Medical Director for Orange County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS).

EMT Certifying Written Examination: the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) EMT-Basic Written Examination.

EMT Certifying Skills Examination: the NREMT EMT-Basic Skills Examination used to test an individual applying for certification as an EMT.

IV. INITIAL STATE EMT CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

(a) An individual who meets one of the following criteria shall be eligible for initial certification upon fulfilling the requirements of subdivision (b) of this Section:

(1) Pass the written examination and skills examination specified in *Sections 100059 and 100059.1 of California Code of Regulations Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 2*, and have either:

(A) A valid EMT course completion record or other documented proof of successful completion of any initial EMT course approved pursuant to Section 100066 of this Chapter dated within the last two (2) years,

(B) Documentation of successful completion of an approved out-of-state initial EMT training course, within the last two (2) years, that meets the requirements of this Chapter, or

(C) A current and valid out-of-state EMT certificate.

(2) Possess a current and valid National Registry EMT-Basic registration certificate.

(3) Possess a current and valid out-of-state or National Registry EMT-Intermediate or Paramedic certificate.

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- (4) Possess a current and valid California Advanced EMT or EMT-II certification or a current and valid California Paramedic license.
 - (b) In addition to meeting one of the criteria listed in subdivision (a), to be eligible for initial certification, an individual shall:
 - (1) Be eighteen (18) years of age or older; Proven by government issued identification.
 - (2) Complete the criminal history background check requirement as specified in *Article 4, Chapter 10 of California Code of Regulations Title 22, Division 9*;
 - (3) Complete an application form that contains this 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.";
 - (4) Disclose any certification or licensure action:
 - (A) Against an EMT, Advanced EMT, or EMT-II certificate, or any denial of certification by a LEMSA, including any active investigations;
 - (B) Against a Paramedic license, or any denial of licensure by the Authority, including any active investigations;
 - (C) Against any EMS-related certification or license of another state or other issuing entity, including any active investigations; or
 - (D) Against any health-related license.
 - (5) Successfully complete the entire certification process within a 60 day period.
 - (6) Pay the established fee. (Reference OCEMS Policy #470.00)
 - (c) The EMT certifying entity shall issue a wallet-sized certificate card, pursuant to *Section 100344, subdivisions (c) and (d), of Chapter 10 California Code of Regulations Title 22, Division 9*, within forty-five (45) days to eligible individuals who apply for an EMT certificate and successfully complete the requirements of this Chapter.
 - (d) The effective date of initial certification shall be the day the certificate is issued.
 - (e) The expiration date for an initial EMT certificate shall be as follows:
 - (1) For an individual who meets the criteria listed in subdivisions (a)(1)(A) or (a)(1)(B) of this Section, the expiration date shall be the last day of the month two (2) years from the effective date of the initial certification.
 - (2) For an individual who meets the criteria listed in subdivisions (a)(1)(C), (a)(2), (a)(3) or (a)(4) of this Section, the expiration date shall be the lesser of the following:

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- (A) The last day of the month two (2) years from the effective date of the initial certification; or
 - (B) The expiration date of the certificate or license used to establish eligibility under subdivision (a) of this Section.
 - (f) The EMT shall be responsible for notifying the certifying entity of her/his proper and current mailing address and shall notify the certifying entity in writing within thirty (30) calendar days of any and all changes of the mailing address, giving both the old and the new address, and EMT registry number.
 - (g) An EMT shall only be certified by one (1) certifying entity during a certification period.

V. MAINTAINING EMT CERTIFICATION AND RECERTIFICATION:

- (a) In order to recertify, an EMT shall:
 - (1) Possess a current EMT Certification issued in California.
 - (2) Obtain at least twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education hours (CEH) from an approved CE provider in accordance with the provisions contained in *California Code of Regulations Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 11*, or successfully complete a twenty-four (24) hour refresher course from an approved EMT training program. An individual who is currently licensed in California as a Paramedic or certified as an Advanced EMT or EMT-II, or who has been certified within six (6) months of the date of application, may be given credit for CEH earned as a Paramedic, Advanced EMT or EMT-II to satisfy the CE requirement for EMT recertification as specified in this Chapter.
 - (3) Complete an application form and other processes as specified in Section 100079 of *California Code of Regulations Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 2*, subdivisions IV. (b)(3)-(b)(6), of this Section.
 - (4) Complete the criminal history background check requirements as specified in Article 4, *California Code of Regulations Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 10*.
 - (5) Submit a completed skills competency verification form, EMSA-SCV (08/10). Form EMSA-SCV (08/10) is herein incorporated by reference. Skills competency shall be verified by direct observation of an actual or simulated patient contact. Skills competency shall be verified by an individual who is currently certified or licensed as an EMT, AEMT, Paramedic, Registered Nurse, Physician's Assistant, or Physician and who shall be designated by an EMS approved training program (EMT training program, AEMT training program, Paramedic training program or CE provider) or an EMS service provider. EMS service providers include, but are not limited to, public safety agencies, private ambulance providers and other EMS providers. Verification of skills competency shall be valid for a maximum of two (2) years for the purpose of applying for recertification.
 - (6) Pay the established fee. (Reference OCEMS Policy #470.00)
- (b) The EMT certifying entity shall issue a wallet-sized certificate card, pursuant to Section 100344 *California Code of Regulations Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 2* subdivisions (c) and (d), of Chapter 10 of *California Code of Regulations Title 22, Division 9*, within forty-five (45) days to eligible individuals who apply for EMT recertification and successfully complete the requirements of this policy.
- (c) If the EMT recertification requirements are met within six (6) months prior to the current certification expiration date, the EMT Certifying entity shall make the effective date of recertification the date

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immediately following the expiration date of the current certificate. The certification will expire two (2) years from the day prior to the effective date.

- (d) If the EMT recertification requirements are met greater than six (6) months prior to the expiration date, the EMT Certifying entity shall make the effective date of recertification the date the individual satisfactorily completes all certification requirements and has applied for recertification. The certification expiration date will be the last day of the month two (2) years from the effective date.
- (e) A California certified EMT who is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States and whose certification expires while deployed on active duty, or whose certification expires less than six (6) months from the date they return from active duty deployment, with the Armed Forces of the United States shall have six (6) months from the date they return from active duty deployment to complete the requirements of *OCEMS Policy 410.00 Section V, subdivisions (a)(2)-(a)(5)*. In order to qualify for this exception, the individual shall submit proof of their membership in the Armed Forces of the United States and documentation of their deployment starting and ending dates. Continuing education credit may be given for documented training that meets the requirements of *Chapter 11 of California Code of Regulations Title 22, Division 9*, while the individual was deployed on active duty. The documentation shall include verification from the individual's Commanding Officer attesting to the training attended.

VI. RECERTIFICATION OF AN EXPIRED CALIFORNIA EMT CERTIFICATE:

- (a) The following requirements apply to individuals who wish to be eligible for recertification after their California EMT Certificates have expired:
 - (1) For a lapse of less than six (6) months, the individual shall complete the requirements of *OCEMS Policy 410.00 Section V, subdivisions (a)(2)-(a)(6)*.
 - (2) For a lapse of six (6) months or more, but less than twelve (12) months, the individual shall:
 - (A) Complete the requirements of *OCEMS Policy 410.00 Section V., subdivisions (a)(2)-(a)(6)*, and
 - (B) Complete an additional twelve (12) hours of continuing education.
 - (3) For a lapse of twelve (12) months or more, but less than twenty-four (24) months, the individual shall:
 - (A) Complete the requirements of *OCEMS Policy 410.00 Section V., subdivisions (a)(2)-(a)(6)*, and
 - (B) Complete an additional twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education, and
 - (C) Pass the written and skills certification exams as specified in *Sections 100059 and 100059.1 of California Code of Regulations Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 2*
 - (4) For a lapse of greater than twenty-four (24) months the individual shall meet the requirements of *OCEMS Policy 410.00 Section IV, subdivisions (a) and (b)*.
- (b) For individuals who meet the requirements of *OCEMS Policy 410.00 Section VI., subdivision (a)(1), (a)(2), or (a)(3)*, the EMT certifying entity shall make the effective date of recertification the day the certificate is issued. The certification expiration date will be the last day of the month two (2) years from the effective date. For individuals who meet the requirements of *OCEMS Policy 410.00 Section*

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VI., subdivision (a)(4), the EMT certifying entity shall make the certification effective and expiration dates consistent with Section 100079, subdivisions (d) and (e).

- (c) The EMT certifying entity shall issue a wallet-sized certificate card, pursuant to Section 100344, subdivisions (c) and (d), of Chapter 10 of California Code of Regulations Title 22, Division 9, within forty-five (45) days to eligible individuals who apply for EMT recertification and successfully complete the requirements of this Chapter.

Approved:

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OCEMS Administrator

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