

PREHOSPITAL POLICY

Policy Reference No: 301
Effective Date: 3/1/97
Supersedes: 3/1/94

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN-I CERTIFICATION

I. PURPOSE:

To establish criteria for the certification of Emergency Medical Technicians in accordance with Title 22.

II. AUTHORITY:

State of California, California Administrative Code, Title 22, Social Security, Division 9, Prehospital Emergency Medical Services.

III. DEFINITIONS:

A. "Emergency Medical Technician-I (EMT-I)" - An individual who has completed both an approved training program and the certification process as prescribed by local and State regulations.

County Health Officer

Date

Executive Director, Emergency Medical Services Agency

Date

Medical Director, Emergency Medical Services Agency

Date

- B. “Emergency Medical Services Agency(ies)” - The EMS Agencies are the local coordinating agencies for counties in the State of California, including San Luis Obispo. EMS Agencies are also the certifying authority for EMT-Is. For the purposes of this document, the EMS Agency shall refer to the San Luis Obispo County EMS Agency.
- C. “Certification” - The document that attests that an individual meets the criteria to provide patient care as an EMT-I.

IV. CERTIFICATION POLICY:

- A. Changes in State EMT-I regulations shall supersede information in this policy upon codification.
- B. A current and valid California EMT certification is required to practice as an EMT-I in the State of California.
- C. An EMT-I with an expired card is not certified to practice as an EMT-I in San Luis Obispo or any other county in the State of California.
- D. Only EMT-Is currently certified in the State of California may represent themselves as an EMT-I. Individuals who are not currently certified as an EMT-I and represent themselves as such may be subject to criminal penalties.
- E. An individual with an EMT-I certification that has been expired for more than four (4) years shall be required to complete a full Basic Course in order to be eligible for certification.
- F. The EMT-I certification candidate shall demonstrate eligibility to the local EMS Agency, and shall complete the application process.
- G. Candidates shall apply to the EMS Agency and pay the application fee. This fee is not refundable.
- H. Certification as an EMT-I shall be statewide and for a maximum of two years, or such other time period as specified in the current State EMT-I regulations.
 - 1. The effective date of certification shall be the date of successful passage of the EMT-I certifying examination, except;
 - 2. If a currently certified EMT-I completes the recertification requirements within six months prior to expiration of the current certificate, the effective date shall be the date of expiration of the current certificate.
- I. All certification examinations, including the Challenge Examination, shall consist of a competency-based written and skills examination to test the knowledge of topics and skills as prescribed in Title 22.
- J. All certification candidates are required to successfully pass the certification examination.

- K. An eligible challenge candidate shall be permitted to take the EMT-I Challenge Examination only one time.
- L. Challenge candidates who fail to achieve a passing score on the EMT-I Challenge Examination shall successfully complete an EMT-I Basic Course to receive an EMT-I course completion certificate.
- M. Candidates for recertification must possess a current EMT-I certification or an EMT-I certification that has been current within the last four years.
- N. Denial of certification shall be subject to the provisions of the EMS Agency certification review process.
- O. Candidates whose checks are returned for insufficient funds may be subject to the certification review process for fraudulent procurement of their certificate. Other fees, as allowed by law, may also be assessed.
- P. All information on the EMS Agency EMT-I application is subject to verification.
- Q. Candidates who supply information found to be fraudulent shall be subject to the certification review process for fraudulent procurement of their certificate.
- R. Exceptions to any of the certification requirements must be approved by the EMS Agency Medical Director.

V. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- A. To be eligible for EMT-I certification, a candidate must:
 - 1. Be eighteen years of age or older.
 - 2. Furnish a current photo identification to the EMS Agency at the time of application (initial certification only).
 - 3. Possess or have possessed:
 - a) A valid EMT-I, EMT-II, or EMT-P certificate in California within the last four years and have completed a refresher course within the last two years.
 - b) Possess a current out-of-state or National Registry EMT-I certification or have possessed a valid out-of-state or National Registry certificate within the last four years.
 - 4. Provide proof of successful completion of an approved EMT-I training program (Basic Course, Refresher course or Challenge Examination).

- a) The Basic Course must be completed within two years prior to applying for initial certification to the EMS Agency.
 - b) Comply with eligibility requirements of the applicable section of Title 22.
5. Provide proof of successful completion of a competency-based written and skills examination as prescribed in Title 22.
 6. Provide proof of current certification as a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Provider according to the standards for professional rescuers of the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross.
 7. Provide a California Department of Motor Vehicle driving record printout dated not more than seven days from the date of application to the EMS Agency.
 8. Submit to fingerprinting for a criminal background check by the California Department of Justice.
 9. Pay all application fees. These fees are not refundable.

VI. PROCEDURE:

- A. Candidates for initial certification or recertification in San Luis Obispo must apply in person to the EMS Agency if previous fingerprints are not on file.
- B. Recertification candidates with previous fingerprints on file may apply by mail.
- C. Candidates shall leave sufficient time to recertify. The San Luis Obispo EMS Agency requires up to fourteen calendar days to process applications.