

# §157.33 Certification

## GETAC DRAFT 2– 8/13/2004

1 **Legend:**

2 Current Language - Normal font

3 New Language - Underscored

4 **[Deleted Language]** - Strikethrough, Bold & Brackets

5 **Staff Recommendation**

6 **Legal Recommendation**

7

8 §157.33. Certification.

9

10 (a) Certification requirements. A candidate for emergency medical services (EMS)  
11 certification shall:

12

13 (1) (No change.)

14

15 (2) have a high school diploma or GED certificate;

16

17 (A) (No change.)

18

19 (B) an emergency care attendant (ECA) who provides emergency medical  
20 care exclusively as a volunteer for a licensed provider or registered FRO is exempt from (a)(2).

21

22 (3) (No change)

23

24 (4) submit an application, meeting the requirements in 157.3 of this title, and the  
25 following nonrefundable fees as applicable:

26

27 (A) – (C) (No change.)

28

29 (5) provide evidence of current active or inactive National Registry certification at  
30 the appropriate level. National Registry First Responder certification is considered the  
31 appropriate corresponding certification level for ECA. ~~[pass the department's written~~  
32 examination or the National Registry examination.]

33

34 (b) Length of certification. A candidate who meets the requirements of subsection (a) of  
35 this section shall be certified for four years beginning on the date of issuance of a certificate and  
36 wallet-size certificate. A candidate must verify current certification before staffing an EMS  
37 vehicle. Certification may be verified by the applicant's receipt of the official department  
38 identification card, by using the department's certification website, or by contacting the  
39 department directly.

40

41 (c) Scheduling authority for certification examinations

42

43 (1) (No change.)

44



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89           ~~[(3) A candidate who does not pass a second retest must meet the~~  
90 ~~requirements of subsection (a) of this section, which includes a refresher course and~~  
91 ~~passing of the retest examination, within one year after the initial course was completed.]~~  
92

93           ~~[(f) Prolonged application process by the department. If the application approval~~  
94 ~~process is prolonged due to a felony/misdemeanor conviction investigation or other~~  
95 ~~administrative procedure within the department, the time period for determination of~~  
96 ~~certification eligibility will be extended to reasonably accommodate the candidate and/or~~  
97 ~~the department.]~~  
98

99           (e) ~~[(g)]~~ Non-transferability of certificate. A certificate is not transferable. A duplicate  
100 certificate may be issued if requested with a nonrefundable fee of \$10.  
101

102           (f) ~~[(h)]~~ A candidate may apply for a lower level than the level of National Registry  
103 ~~certification held. [Completion of higher level courses. Individuals who successfully~~  
104 ~~complete certification requirements for a higher level of certification are considered~~  
105 ~~certified only at the higher level. The completion of a course at a higher level of~~  
106 ~~certification shall satisfy the course completion requirements for a lower level of~~  
107 ~~certification, and the individual may apply for certification at the lower level by following~~  
108 ~~the procedure listed in subsections (a)–(c) of this section.]~~  
109

110           (g) ~~[(i)]~~ Voluntary downgrades.  
111

112           (1) An individual who holds a current Texas EMS certification or paramedic  
113 license may be certified at a lower level voluntarily for the remainder of ~~[(a)]~~ the [current]  
114 certification period by submitting an application for the lower level certification and the  
115 applicable nonrefundable fee as required in subsection (a)(4) of this section. ~~[(;)]~~  
116

117           (2) On the date the downgrade is final, the previous higher level of  
118 certification/license shall be surrendered. To regain the original higher level of certification, the  
119 candidate shall follow late recertification procedures according to 157.34(d), within one year  
120 after the surrender date.  
121

122           (h) ~~[(j)]~~ Inactive certification [status]. A certified EMT, EMT-I, or EMT-P may make  
123 application to the department for inactive certification [status] at any time during ~~[(or after)]~~ the  
124 certification period or within one year after the certificate expiration date ~~[(so long as the~~  
125 ~~certification can be verified by department)].~~  
126

127           (1) The request for inactive certification [status] shall be accompanied by a  
128 nonrefundable fee of \$30 in addition to the regular nonrefundable fee in paragraph (a)(4)(A) and  
129 (B) of this section. If the final requirement is completed during the one-year period after  
130 expiration, the application fees listed in 157.34(d) will be required. Volunteers are not exempt  
131 from inactive fees.  
132

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133 (2) Period of inactive certification. ~~[The initial inactive status period shall~~  
134 ~~remain in effect until the end of the current certification period for those candidates who~~  
135 ~~are currently certified and may be renewable every four years thereafter by submitting an~~  
136 ~~application and the appropriate nonrefundable fee as in subsection (a)(4)(A) and (B) of this~~  
137 ~~section.]~~

138  
139 (A) The inactive certification period shall begin upon date of issuance of  
140 the notice of inactive certification and remain in effect until the end of the original active  
141 certification period for those candidates who are currently certified. The candidate's active  
142 certification is surrendered upon issuance of the notice of inactive certification.

143  
144 (B) If the candidate is within the final year of active certification and  
145 chooses to renew with inactive certification, the inactive certification begins on the first day after  
146 the expiration of the current active certificate and shall remain in effect for four years.

147  
148 (C) If the candidate applies during and/or completes the final requirement  
149 for inactive certification within one year after the expiration of active certification, the inactive  
150 certification period shall remain in effect for four years from the date of issuance of the notice of  
151 inactive certification.

152  
153 ~~[(3) The initial inactive status period shall remain in effect for four years~~  
154 ~~from the date of issuance for those candidates not currently certified.]~~

155  
156 (3) ~~[(4)]~~ While on inactive certification ~~[status]~~, a person shall not practice other  
157 than to act as a bystander rendering first aid or cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or the use of  
158 an Automated External Defibrillator in the capacity of a layperson. Practicing in any other  
159 capacity for compensation or as a volunteer shall be cause for denial of reentry and  
160 decertification.

161  
162 (4) ~~[(5)]~~ An individual shall not simultaneously hold inactive and active ~~[EMS~~  
163 ~~personnel]~~ certification.

#### (i) Reciprocity.

164  
165  
166 (1) A person who is currently certified by the National Registry but did not  
167 complete a department-approved course may apply for the equal or lower level Texas  
168 certification by submitting a reciprocity application and a nonrefundable fee of \$120.

169  
170  
171 (A) Applicants holding National Registry EMT-intermediate certification  
172 must submit written verification of proficiency of EMT-intermediate skills from an approved  
173 education program.

174  
175 (B) National Registry first responder certification is not eligible for  
176 certification at the Emergency Care Attendant (ECA) level.

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178 (C) A candidate will not be eligible for reciprocity if the National Registry  
179 certification expires prior to the completion of all requirements for certification as listed in this  
180 section.

181  
182 (D) A candidate who meets the requirements of this section shall be  
183 certified for four years beginning on the date of issuance of a certificate and wallet-size  
184 certificate.

185  
186 (2) A person currently certified by another state may apply may apply for equal or  
187 lower level Texas certification by submitting a reciprocity application and a nonrefundable fee of  
188 \$120.

189  
190 (A) The candidate must pass the National Registry assessment exam.

191  
192 (B) Applicants holding EMT- intermediate National Registry certification  
193 must submit written proof of proficiency on all of the EMT-Intermediate skills signed by a Texas  
194 certified EMS coordinator or instructor.

195  
196 (C) Reciprocity is not allowed for the Emergency Care Attendant (ECA)  
197 level.

198  
199 (D) A candidate will not be eligible for reciprocity if the National Registry  
200 certification expires prior to the completion of all requirements for certification as listed in this  
201 section.

202  
203 (E) A candidate who meets the requirements of this section shall be  
204 certified for four years beginning on the date of issuance of a certificate and wallet-size  
205 certificate.

206  
207 (3) Personnel receiving department issued certification through reciprocity must  
208 recertify prior to the expiration of the certificate by following the requirements in §157.34 of this  
209 chapter.

210  
211 (j) ~~(4)~~ Equivalency.

212  
213 (1) Candidates meeting the following criteria may apply for certification only  
214 through the equivalency process as described in this subsection:

215  
216 (A) an individual who completed EMS training outside the United States  
217 or its possessions;

218  
219 (B) an individual who is certified or licensed in another healthcare  
220 discipline;

221



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265 ~~(1) A candidate for certification who completed EMS training outside the~~  
266 ~~United States or its possessions, or a candidate who is certified or licensed in another~~  
267 ~~healthcare discipline shall:~~

268  
269 ~~(A) be at least 18 years of age;~~

270  
271 ~~(B) submit a copy of the curriculum completed by the candidate for~~  
272 ~~review by a regionally accredited post secondary institution approved by the department to~~  
273 ~~sponsor an EMS education program;~~

274  
275 ~~(C) document correction of any deficiencies identified during review~~  
276 ~~of the curriculum by submitting evidence of remedial training from a department~~  
277 ~~approved EMS education program;~~

278  
279 ~~(D) submit an application and appropriate nonrefundable fee listed in~~  
280 ~~subsection (a) of this section to the department; and~~

281  
282 ~~(E) pass the department's initial written examination.~~

283  
284 ~~(2) Evaluations of curricula conducted by post secondary educational~~  
285 ~~institutions under this subsection shall be consistent with the institution's established~~  
286 ~~policies and procedures for awarding credit by transfer or advanced placement.]~~

287  
288 (k) ~~{(m)}~~ For all applications and renewal applications, the department ~~{or the board}~~ is  
289 authorized to collect subscription and convenience fees, in amounts determined by the Texas  
290 Online Authority, to recover costs associated with application and renewal application  
291 processing through Texas Online. (No change.)