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Texas Administrative Code

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COURSE APPROVAL****RULE §157.33****Certification**

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

- (1) be at least 18 years of age;
- (2) have a high school diploma or GED certificate:

(A) the high school diploma must be from a school accredited by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) or a corresponding agency from another state. Candidates who received a high school education in another country must have their transcript evaluated by a foreign credentials evaluation service that attests to its equivalency. A home school diploma is acceptable if it is accompanied by a letter of acceptance into a regionally accredited college;

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

- (3) have successfully completed a Texas Department of Health (department)-approved course; and

- (4) submit an application and the following nonrefundable fees as applicable:

(A) \$60 for emergency care attendant (ECA) or emergency medical technician (EMT);

(B) \$90 for EMT-intermediate (EMT-I) or EMT-paramedic (EMT-P); and

(C) EMS volunteer - no fee. However, if such an individual receives compensation during the certification period, the exemption ceases and the individual shall pay a prorated fee to the department based on the number of years remaining in the certification period when employment begins. The nonrefundable fee for ECA or EMT certification shall be \$15 per each year remaining in the certification. The nonrefundable fee for EMT-I or EMT-P shall be \$22.50 per each year remaining in the certification. Any portion of a year will count as a full year; and

- (5) pass the department's written examination or the National Registry examination.

(b) Length of certification. A candidate who meets the requirements of subsection (a) of this section shall be certified for four years beginning on the date of issuance of a certificate and wallet-size certificate.

(c) Scheduling authority for certification examinations.

- (1) The department has final authority for scheduling all certification examination sessions.

(2) Examinations shall be administered at regularly scheduled times in regional test centers.

(3) The candidate shall be responsible for making appropriate arrangements for the examination.

(4) The department is not required to set special examination schedules for a single candidate or for a specific group of candidates.

(d) Time limits for completing requirements.

(1) A candidate shall complete all requirements for certification no later than one year after the candidate's course completion date.

(2) A candidate who does not complete all requirements for certification within one year of the candidate's initial course completion date must meet the requirements of subsection (a) of this section including the completion of another initial course to achieve certification.

(e) Retesting.

(1) A candidate who does not pass the department's written examination may retest after:

(A) submitting an application to retest; and

(B) paying a nonrefundable fee of \$30, if applicable.

(2) A candidate who does not pass a retest may request a second retest after:

(A) submitting documentation that verifies completion of a department-approved formal refresher course;

(B) submitting an application to retest; and

(C) paying a nonrefundable fee of \$30, if applicable.

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

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

(g) Non-transferability of certificate. A certificate is not transferable. A duplicate certificate may be issued if requested with a nonrefundable fee of \$10.

(h) Completion of higher level courses. Individuals who successfully complete certification requirements for a higher level of certification are considered certified only at the higher level. The completion of a course at a higher level of certification shall satisfy the course completion requirements for a lower level of certification, and the individual may apply for certification at the lower level by

following the procedure listed in subsections (a)-(c) of this section.

(i) Voluntary downgrades. An individual who holds EMS certification may be certified at a lower level voluntarily for the remainder of a current certification by submitting an application for certification and the applicable nonrefundable fee as required in subsection (a)(4) of this section;

(j) Inactive status. A certified EMT, EMT-I, or EMT-P may make application to the department for inactive status at any time during or after the certification period so long as the certification can be verified by the department.

(1) The request for inactive status shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of \$30 in addition to the regular nonrefundable application fee.

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

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

(4) While on inactive status, a person shall not practice other than to act as a bystander rendering first aid or cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or the use of an Automated External Defibrillator in the capacity of a lay person. Practicing in any other capacity for compensation or as a volunteer shall be cause for denial of reentry and decertification.

(5) An individual shall not simultaneously hold inactive and active EMS personnel certification.

(k) Reciprocity. A person currently certified by the National Registry or in another state may be certified by submitting an application and a nonrefundable fee of \$120.

(1) After evaluation of the application and verification of the certification by the department, the candidate will be certified for one year.

(2) Prior to the expiration of the one-year certification, the certificant shall:

(A) submit a completed personnel certification application and a nonrefundable fee as in subsection (a)(4) of this section;

(B) pass the department's written examination or the National Registry examination within one year after the initial reciprocity certification has been granted.

(3) After verification by the department of the information submitted, a candidate who meets the requirements of this section shall be certified for four years beginning on the date of issuance of the certificate.

(l) Equivalency.

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

(A) be at least 18 years of age;

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

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

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

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

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

(m) For all applications and renewal applications, the department (or the board) is authorized to collect subscription and convenience fees, in amounts determined by the Texas Online Authority, to recover costs associated with application and renewal application processing through Texas Online.

Source Note: The provisions of this §157.33 adopted to be effective September 1, 2000, 25 TexReg 3749; amended to be effective January 1, 2002, 26 TexReg 7871 and 8840; amended to be effective June 1, 2004, 29 TexReg 4492

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