



EMS Personnel Division

— TOOLS, TIPS, AND HOT TOPICS—

Online Transition Courses Approved!

The State of California EMS Authority (EMSA) announced the approval of three (3) ONLINE NREMT Transition Courses on July 17, 2015:

- Distance CME LLC <http://www.distancecme.com> - Paramedic & EMT transition
- Code 3 CME LLC <http://www.code3cme.com> - Paramedic, AEMT & EMT transition
- FISDAP - <http://fisdap.net> - Paramedic, AEMT & EMT transition

These transition courses are a requirement for continued registration with the National Registry of EMT's (NREMT) as part of NREMT's commitment to fully implement their transition to the current National EMS Scope of Practice Model, National Education Standards, and Instructional Guidelines, which is also the goal of the EMS Authority.

In 2009, the national standards and instruction guidelines for EMS providers were updated by the National Highway and Traffic Safety Agency. These changes were made to ensure that the EMS providers are being trained and knowledgeable in current medical practices, thus ensuring continued quality care for the general public.

The updates also created a gap between the prior standards and what is being taught today, which is addressed through approved transition courses. The suggested curriculum for the transition courses relies heavily on the work produced by the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) in their gap analysis of the differences between the prior National Standard Curricula and the new National Education Standards. In coordination with a variety of stakeholders, the EMS Authority created a guideline to ensure this gap in education was addressed. All approved transition courses are in compliance with these guidelines.

Local transition courses are also still available and are approved by the Local EMS Agencies. A list of programs that provide these courses and more detailed information can be found on the EMT page of EMSA's website: <http://www.emsa.ca.gov/EMT>.

Completion of a transition course is **not** necessary to maintain California EMT certification or paramedic licensure.

If you have questions, please contact Betsy Slavensky at (916)431-3717 or betsy.slavensky@emsa.ca.gov

New Manager Personnel Standards Unit

We are pleased to announce that Priscilla Rivera has accepted the position of manager for the Personnel Standards Unit with the EMS Authority. Priscilla comes directly from the Paramedic Licensure Unit at EMSA and brings a plethora of skills and enthusiasm to the Personnel Standards Unit. Priscilla oversees the Childcare and BLS programs, the Central Registry and regulatory updates. Her contact information is: (916) 431-3707; Priscilla.Rivera@emsa.ca.gov.

EMT Regulations Update

A work group of subject matter experts and EMS stakeholders convened to revise the Chapter 2 EMT regulations to adopt amendments required by Senate Bill (SB) 1438 (Pavley, 2014) *Controlled Substance: Opioid Antagonists*. SB 1438 requires EMSA to develop and adopt training standards for all prehospital emergency medical care personnel regarding the use and administration of naloxone hydrochloride and other opioid antagonists by July 1, 2016. The bill also expands the scope of practice for certified emergency medical technicians.

In addition to naloxone, regulation revisions that are under consideration include scope of practice changes to allow EMTs to use epinephrine auto-injectors and glucometers. This will increase the training requirements along with the proposed addition of tactical casualty care found in Assembly Bill (AB) 1598 (Rodriguez, 2014) *Emergency response services: active shooter incidents*. Simplification of the initial and renewal certification requirements, changes to reinstatement requirements and consistent expiration dates have been proposed as well. The skills verification process is under review along with the inclusion of high fidelity simulation patient contacts.

EMSA currently anticipates opening the rule-making in November 2015 and seeking approval of the regulations from the Commission on EMS at the March 2016 meeting.

Public Safety Regulations Update

Revisions to the Chapter 1.5 regulations were approved by the Office of Administrative Law and took effect April 1, 2015. The regulations require 21 hours of initial training for peace officers, firefighters and lifeguards, and eight hours of retraining every two years.

All training programs must include a curriculum that complies with the new public safety course content no later than April 1, 2017. The regulations do not specify a date when everyone must be trained under the new course content, though an agency may establish a date for their personnel.

Epinephrine Auto-injector Training for Lay Rescuers

A work group of subject matter experts collaborated in developing regulation text to implement the epinephrine auto-injector training and certification standards as authorized by Senate Bill (SB) 669 (Huff, 2013) for off-duty prehospital emergency personnel and lay rescuers. This training will allow trained individuals to use an epinephrine auto-injector to assist a person suffering from anaphylaxis.

The regulations were unanimously approved by the Commission on EMS on September 2, 2015 and were approved by OAL on October 16, 2015. The regulations will be implemented January 1, 2016.

Contact Corrine Fishman with questions concerning the epinephrine auto-injector training program at (916) 431-3727.

Verifying an Out-of-State Certification or License

To help in processing reciprocity applications, use this [link](#) provided by NASEMSO (National Association of State EMS Officials) to verify EMT and paramedic status in other states. You can also navigate to it from www.nasemso.org. Click on "Resources" then "Look up a License."

Drug/Alcohol Investigations, Arrests or Convictions

Please follow the [Recommended guidelines for disciplinary orders and conditions of probation](#). It is recommended that a respondent obtain a medical evaluation by a physician certified in addiction medicine by the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) or the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN), prior to entering into a probation agreement. For any questions or concerns, please contact Shona Merl @ (916) 431-3692 or shona.merl@emsa.ca.gov.

Ex Parte Communication

There must be no communication, direct or indirect, to the agency "decision-maker" regarding agency disciplinary proceedings. The decision-maker is the medical director and the law prohibits ex parte communications with the decision-maker in proceedings. The following link will direct you to the California Administrative Hearing Practice:

<http://www.ceb.com/info/cp32670outline.htm>. For any questions or concerns, please contact Shona Merl @ (916) 431-3692 or shona.merl@emsa.ca.gov.

Criminal Record Oversight

If you are a certifying entity, you must continue to receive Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) notifications from DOJ as long as the EMT certificate remains active with your agency/department.

REASON: If an NLI is submitted before the EMT certificate cycle expires, there will be no criminal record oversight for this EMT certificate holder. Try to keep in mind that it is a requirement for initial and re-certification of an applicant that CORI records include subsequent arrest notifications and these are received by the certifying entity and the EMS Authority. See the following sections in Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 10 for clarification: §100347, Responsibility of the Initial and Re-certification Applicant; §100348, Responsibility of Certifying Entity and/or Employer Prior to July 1, 2010; and §100349, Responsibility of Certifying Entity and/or Employer after terminating certification or employment relationship. For any questions or concerns, please contact Shona Merl @ (916) 431-3692 or shona.merl@emsa.ca.gov.



EMT 2010 Central Registry

New Requirements Checklists...

...are in test mode! Have you ever been confused about what fee to choose while processing an EMT certification in the Central Registry? That is about to change! New OBTAINED BY options will be available to choose the correct entry pathway for an Initial certification, as well as options for renewal and recertification. Each "Obtained By" option will generate its own CHECKLIST specific to those requirements. These updates also include an auto-populated fee requirement based on what type of certification you are processing, whether it is an initial, renewal, recertification or change of certifying entities. With this feature, you will no longer have to choose from the \$75 or \$37 fee; the system will identify the correct one for you! Meanwhile, to help you with the fee decisions, EMSA has posted a chart on the EMS Authority's EMT web page, <http://www.emsa.ca.gov/EMT>. This chart explains the EMT certification fees and requirements based on current regulations. Recently, we emailed a copy of this chart to all central registry users. Stay tuned for implementation!

Paramedic Accreditation Update

The Central Registry database was updated in 2014 to provide LEMSA's with a more efficient and timely way to report paramedic accreditations. With a special log-in provided by the EMS Authority, LEMSA's are able to update paramedic licenses with their accreditation information in real time. This would remove the need for LEMSA's to send accreditation reports to the EMS Authority and eliminate the wait time for updates in MLO. LEMSA's not electing to utilize the Central Registry process must continue with the monthly accreditation reporting per section §100166 of the paramedic regulations.

New drop down options are currently in test mode for the Paramedic Local Accreditation mini-panel including:

- Basic Accreditation
- Community Paramedicine
- Critical Care

You will be able to input multiple accreditations for one paramedic. You can enter the start date, but should not manually input the expiration date. EMSA will do this so that the history can be tracked.

If you are interested in getting a login and instructions for registry update process, please send a request to: mlohelpdesk@emsa.ca.gov with the subject: ACCREDITATION.

Newsletters Now Archived

Due to many requests for information from prior newsletters, we have added the last FOUR quarterly newsletters to the [EMT page](#) of the website. We will continue to add the most recent EMS Personnel Newsletter to that page. The archived newsletters are accessible in the section on [Information for Certifying Entities](#). A lot of valuable information and tips can be found in these newsletters. Feel free to peruse when you have Central Registry, policy, procedure, enforcement and certification questions.

Not in the Registry? Do Not Issue Certification!

According to the Central Registry Regulations (Chapter 10, Section 100344), the certifying entity must enter the certification data within 14 days from the date the applicant successfully meets the certification or re-certification requirements, otherwise the certifying entity is out of compliance with the regulations.

When an EMT is issued a state card, this implies that all requirements have been met and the process of certification, *including entry to the Central Registry, is complete.*

Tip: Don't print an EMT certification card until the certification has been entered into the Central Registry.

Searching for an EMT? Search by SSN

NREMT test results are uploaded nightly into the Central Registry, creating a person record. When creating or searching for a record, search by **social security number**. If the person record already exists, you will receive a message as such and may proceed to create a new license on that person record.

Tip: Always use a social security number to search the Central Registry, and verify the person's name and date of birth. This will avoid creation of duplicate records and lessen the workload of certification staff.

Blank Screen? Error code?

How often do you see a blank screen or get an error code when you open MLO to input EMT certification? This is likely a **COMPATIBILITY VIEW** issue. **Internet Explorer is the only browser supported by MLO** and updates weekly (usually on Tuesdays) causing the website to drop compatibility. Check your compatibility view weekly or when you have this type of error before you contact mlohelpdesk@emsa.ca.gov. You can find the procedure for Checking Compatibility View Settings on the [EMT page](#) under Information for Certifying Entities.

Central Registry Procedure Updates

There are FIVE new procedures available now:

- Submitting a NLI form
- Changing certifying entities
- Documenting a certification denial
- Placing an alert
- Using the reminder function

Coming soon:

- Synchronizing expiration dates
- Removing a pending application
- Printing an EMT card

EMSA is collaborating with EMSAAC and LEMSA coordinators to create and update central registry procedures with regulation guidance for easy reference. Several procedures are posted on the [EMT page](#) under Information for Certifying Entities. Some of these procedures will be updated as well, but are there to help guide certification specialists and staff.

Tip: Book mark the [EMT page](#) to access Central Registry user guides.

Do you have suggestions for procedures that you would like to see?

Send your requests to betsy.slavensky@emsa.ca.gov.

Most Common "Glitches" When Re-certifying EMTs

1. Compatibility View Settings – a guide can be found on the [EMT page](#) of the EMSA website.
2. Make Complete Tab – anytime an EMT status reflects “pending,” the certification record must be completed in the Applicant edit module of the registry. Finishing the “Requirements Checklist” and “Make Complete” tab will activate the EMT in the registry.
3. Initial eligibility and expiration dates - a chart to assist in identifying eligibility for initial EMT certification, re-certification and lapsed certification expiration dates can be found on the [EMT page](#) of the EMSA website.
4. Adding a blank Background Check line that contains no information - this will cause an error and the inability to complete the process. NLI submissions should be reported on the same line as the CORI status and original ATI number.
5. Leaving the SSN blank in the Person Record - this is a requirement and will cause an error if it is left blank.

Help Desk Keywords - UPDATED!

Do you know the **FIVE** keywords to submit when requesting assistance to the MLO Help Desk?

KEYWORDS:

PASSWORD

To reset a Central Registry password, be sure to include your user ID in the e-mail body.

PRINTER

Having printer issues? Notify EMSA and request assistance (not for print re-queues).

NEW USER

Establish a new Central Registry user by filling out and emailing the [Blank User Form](#).

DELETE USER

Delete a Central Registry User by filling out and emailing the [Blank User Form](#).

ACCREDITATION

To request assistance with paramedic accreditation issues.

Please submit the applicable keyword in the **email subject line** to: mlohelpdesk@emsa.ca.gov and include your return email address and phone number.

EMS Authority Contacts: EMS Personnel Division

PARAMEDIC LICENSURE GENERAL INFORMATION:

(916) 323-9875; Paramedic@emsa.ca.gov

Sean Trask (Chief of EMS Personnel Division):

(916) 431-3689; Sean.Trask@emsa.ca.gov

* Oversees Personnel Standards Unit, Paramedic Licensure Unit and Enforcement Unit.

Michael Smith (Manager - Enforcement Unit)

(916) 431-3703; Michael.Smith@emsa.ca.gov

* Oversees EMT2010 Enforcement Process and Paramedic Enforcement Unit.

Priscilla Rivera (Manager - Personnel Standards Unit):

(916) 431-3707; Priscilla.Rivera@emsa.ca.gov

* Oversees BLS Program, Central Registry and regulatory updates.

June Leicht (Manager - Paramedic Licensure Unit):

(916) 431-3702; June.Leicht@emsa.ca.gov

* Oversees Paramedic Licensure Unit and Paramedic Programs, NREMT Representatives, and EMT and paramedic billing.

Betsy Slavensky (Personnel Standards Unit):

(916) 431-3717; Betsy.Slavensky@emsa.ca.gov

* Provides My License Office (MLO)/Central Registry technical assistance, interpretations and amendments of regulations, and assists EMTs/AEMTs with questions.

Shona Merl (Enforcement Unit)

(916) 431-3692; Shona.Merl@emsa.ca.gov

* Handles questions regarding CORIs, EMT disciplinary questions, and interpretations of regulations pertaining to EMT/AEMT discipline.

Ken Campbell (Paramedic Licensure Unit):

(916) 431-3648; Kenneth.Campbell@emsa.ca.gov

* Prints and sends the EMT certification cards, returns dishonored checks, and processes EMT and paramedic invoices.

Caroline Fudge (Paramedic Licensure Unit):

(916) 431-3652; Caroline.Fudge@emsa.ca.gov

* Handles renewal paramedic licensure applications.

Brad Beltram (Paramedic Licensure Unit):

(916) 431-3648; bradley.beltram@emsa.ca.gov

* Handles audit renewal applications.

Kimberly Lew (Paramedic Licensure Unit):

(916) 431-3741; kimberly.lew@emsa.ca.gov

* Monitors CE provider and training program database, and paramedic central registry assistance

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