

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

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**BULLETIN NO. 83**

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**National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) Certification Policy**

**Background:**

In 2008 the District of Columbia Fire & Emergency Medical Services Department (DC Fire & EMS) instituted a policy to align our emergency medical services training and certification with the industry accepted standard as provided through the National Registry of EMTs (NREMT). As of July 1, 2009, the District of Columbia Department of Health (DC DOH) instituted a requirement that all EMS providers will need to present a valid NREMT card in order to receive a District of Columbia EMS certification card. The purpose of the District of Columbia Fire & Emergency Medical Services Department National Registry of EMTs Certification Policy is to provide guidance for compliance with the District of Columbia certification requirements.

**Applicability:**

This policy applies to all Members of the DC Fire & EMS Department. This includes those employees who provide medical assistance, medical treatment, first aid, or lifesaving interventions, on the scene of an emergency or in transit from the scene of an emergency to a health care facility or other treatment facility, to a person who is ill, injured, wounded, or otherwise incapacitated.

**General Policy:**

All DC Fire & EMS Department employees will be required to complete the National Registry certification process at their respective certification level (EMT-B, EMT-I/99, or EMT-P) and maintain both National Registry certification and District of Columbia (D.C. Department of Health) certification.

Employees will be given a total of six opportunities to pass the National Registry cognitive (written) examination. Employees who fail to obtain National Registry certification after six cognitive examination attempts will be subject to adverse action by the Department.

This policy shall take effect immediately. This policy supersedes all prior policies and/or issuances regarding EMT certification.

## **Implementation Procedures**

The DC Fire & EMS Department will make reasonable efforts to ensure that each employee will complete the National Registry certification process within six months of the first examination attempt.

The National Registry examination consists of two components, the psychomotor (practical skills) examination and the cognitive (written) examination. The General Policies of the National Registry of EMTs provide the guidelines for disability accommodation and examination retests.

### **Cognitive (Written) Examination Policies:**

Employees who fail the first attempt at the National Registry cognitive (written) examination must immediately notify their supervisor and contact the Training Division to schedule a second attempt.

Employees who fail the second attempt at the National Registry cognitive examination shall be removed from their assignment or detail, and be detailed to the Training Division for a program of remediation. They will remain in this remediation program until they have either completed National Registry certification or they have failed six cumulative National Registry cognitive examination attempts.

Employees who fail the third attempt at the National Registry cognitive examination must complete a minimum number of hours of remedial training before making their fourth attempt, as follows:

EMT-Basic: 24 hours

EMT-Intermediate/99: 36 hours

EMT-Paramedic: 48 hours

### **Psychomotor (Practical Skills) Examination Policies:**

#### **EMT-B**

The National Registry has no specific re-test policies for psychomotor (practical skills) examinations at the EMT-B level. The DC Fire & EMS Department will follow guidelines established by the District of Columbia for psychomotor (practical skills) examinations.

EMT-Intermediate/99

EMT-Intermediate/99 candidates are allowed three (3) full attempts to pass the psychomotor examination (one "full attempt" is defined as completing all eleven (11) skills and two retesting opportunities if so entitled).

Candidates who fail a full attempt or any portion of a second retest must submit official documentation of remedial training over all skills before starting the next full attempt of the psychomotor examination and re-examining over all eleven (11) skills, provided all other requirements for National Certification are fulfilled. This official documentation must be signed by the EMT Training Program Director or Physician Medical Director of training/operations that verifies remedial training over all skills has occurred since the last unsuccessful attempt and the candidate has demonstrated competence in all skills.

DC Fire & EMS Department Employees who fail the third full and final attempt of the National Registry EMT-Intermediate/99 psychomotor examination will be subject to adverse action.

EMT-Paramedic

Paramedic candidates are allowed three (3) full attempts to pass the psychomotor examination (one "full attempt" is defined as completing all twelve [12] skills and two retesting opportunities if so entitled).

Candidates who fail a full attempt or any portion of a second retest must submit official documentation of remedial training over all skills before starting the next full attempt of the psychomotor examination and re-examining over all twelve (12) skills, provided all other requirements for National Certification are fulfilled. This official documentation must be signed by the EMT-Paramedic Training Program Director or Physician Director of training/operations that verifies remedial training over all skills has occurred since the last unsuccessful attempt and the candidate has demonstrated competence in all skills.

DC Fire & EMS Department employees who fail the third full and final attempt of the National Registry EMT-Paramedic psychomotor examination will be subject to adverse action.

**Authority**

"Emergency Medical Services Act of 2008"; D.C. Law 17-357; D.C. Official Code §§ 7-2341.01 *et. seq.* (2009).