



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2015-2016

EMS Personnel Division

— TOOLS, TIPS, AND HOT TOPICS —

Announcing...Same Day Counter Paramedic Licensing Services

The EMSA Paramedic Licensure Unit is excited to announce same day front counter paramedic licensure services. Applicants who come into the EMSA office with a complete paramedic license application and required additional documents, can be approved to receive their paramedic licensure card while they wait! Services are available as follows:

Same Day Counter Services Available

- Initial In-State & Out-of-State Applications
- Challenge Applications
- Renewal Applications (*not flagged for Audit*)
- Reinstatement Renewals (*not flagged for Audit*)
- Duplicate Cards

Same Day Counter Service Hours

- Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- Thursdays 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- (*Holiday exclusions may apply.*)

Same day counter service is not a guarantee that an applicant's license will be approved. License approval is contingent upon staff review of the content submitted in the application packet.

Please contact the Paramedic Licensure Unit at (916) 323-9875 or by email at Paramedic@emsa.ca.gov for additional information.

New Law Allows NPs & PAs to Sign POLST Forms

California's POLST program changed January 1, 2016, when [Assembly Bill 637](#) became effective, allowing nurse practitioners and physician assistants - *under the supervision of a physician and within their scope of practice* - to sign POLST forms and make them actionable medical orders.

The revised POLST form includes a signature line for "Physician/Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant" on the front and instructions on the back. There is a new space on the back where NPs and PAs can write the name of their supervising physician, however, the signature of the

supervising physician is not required. POLST forms completed prior to 1/1/2016 and signed by the patient/decision maker and a physician will remain valid.

The POLST signing authority is not expanded to include any other professional classifications.
The revised POLST form is available for [download as a PDF](#) and available for bulk purchase through [Med-Pass.com](#).

New AED Bill Signed

On September 3, 2015 Senate Bill (SB) 658 (Hill, 2015) *Automated external defibrillators* was signed by the Governor and amended Section 1714.21 of the Civil Code and Section 1797.196 of the Health and Safety Code. This bill reduces liability conditions on persons or entities that acquire an AED. In addition, the statute removes numerous requirements that are identified in Chapter 1.8, making these regulations inconsistent and in conflict with the statute. The EMS Authority is in the process of reviewing ways to address the new implications of SB 658.

SB 658 did not amend the AED requirements for health studios.

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. The bill also expands the scope of practice for certified emergency medical technicians.

In addition to changes for SB 1438, regulation revisions under consideration include:

- Scope of practice changes to allow EMTs to use epinephrine auto-injectors and glucometers
- 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
- The skills verification process along with the inclusion of high fidelity simulation patient contacts

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

The Emergency Medical Services Authority is happy to announce that the epinephrine auto-injector regulations were approved by the Office of Administrative Law on October 16, 2015 and became effective January 1, 2016.

The EMS Authority is accepting applications for training program approval as of January 1, 2016.

Certification from the EMS Authority will allow a member of the general public or off-duty EMS personnel to obtain a prescription for and administer an epinephrine auto-injector to a person experiencing anaphylaxis, with civil liability protection, when acting in good faith and not for compensation.

The website has been updated with all the necessary information and required forms for those interested in becoming certified or providing a training program.

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

NREMT Online Transition Courses Still Available

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

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

Certifying Entities who are Non-LEMSAs

If you have paramedics **employed** with your department and plan to certify them as EMTs, you must get a new live-scan, even though you are receiving criminal arrest notifications for employment purposes. A live-scan form for EMT certification must reflect EMS Authority as the employer in order to ensure that a dual copy is sent to the EMS Authority.

For any questions or concerns, please contact Shona Merl @ (916) 431-3692 or shona.merl@emsa.ca.gov.

Documenting Certification Actions

A procedure on how to document certification action in the central registry is coming soon! Certification actions should be documented in two places in the central registry profile: the certification actions panel and the license status. The certification actions panel will reflect the details of the certification action (probation start and end dates) and the license status must reflect the current status (active-probation). The license status is viewable in the Public Look Up.

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, even if the EMT/AEMT leaves your employment.

REASON: If an NLI is submitted before the EMT certification cycle expires, there will be no criminal record oversight for this EMT certificate holder. It is a requirement for initial and re-certification of an applicant that CORI records include subsequent arrest notifications. 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 Obtained By Options/Checklists...are HERE!

Effective January 1, 2016, MLO now has NEW OBTAINED BY options available to choose the correct entry pathway for an EMT/AEMT initial certification, as well as options for renewal and re-certification.

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, or if there is a 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!

To reference the fee schedule, 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.

Paramedic Accreditation Options Coming Soon

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

Should you choose to enter paramedic local accreditation in MLO through your agency, you will have new drop down options soon including:

- Basic Accreditation (used for identifying paramedics accredited in your jurisdiction)
- 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 until or unless the paramedic is no longer accredited with your LEMSA.

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: PASSWORD.

Should you choose to have EMSA enter your Paramedic Accreditation, the EMS Authority will only enter Basic Accreditation.

New Status Options For EMT Certification

EMSA has streamlined the status options in the Central Registry for the EMT certification process. There were many unused status choices and others that auto-populate, which caused confusion. An all central registry user email notification was sent out in December listing the status options now available in MLO and the definitions/uses for each of those options.

The "Inactive" option should only be used for an EMT that is deceased, not when changing certifying

entities. Reminder - an EMT retains his same E# throughout his certification, even when changing agencies. The only time the E# would change is due to revocation and reapplication.

The "Pending" status option is no longer available to certifying entities. EMSA can make this change if a certifying entity prematurely processes a certification in error without confirming that all requirements were met. This can only be done if a card has not been issued to the EMT/AEMT.

If you have questions or need support, please send your request to mlohelpdesk@emsa.ca.gov.

Pending Reinstatements

EMSA recently produced a report showing over 100 pending reinstatements in the Central Registry. The certifying entities with incomplete certifications were notified via email and some have made those corrections. This status occurs when processing is not completed. Please review your EMT certifications to ensure that the process of entering all information in the Registry is complete.

If you have an EMT in "pending reinstatement," you will need to enter the SSN and search via APPLICANT EDIT to find and complete or remove the reinstatement. If there was an error made such as an incorrect date or the wrong "Obtained By" option, you may contact EMSA to make that correction at mlohelpdesk@emsa.ca.gov. If the application has been abandoned and needs to be withdrawn, a new procedure for removing and archiving pending applications can be found on the [EMT page](#) of EMSA's website under Information for Certifying Entities.

Paramedic Options For EMT certification

Paramedics have several options for renewing, reinstating or obtaining an initial EMT certification without additional training. Certifying entities may review these options in Chapter 2. Emergency Medical Technician regulations. Some of these options include:

- Initial EMT certification (1st time CA EMT certificate) - a current and valid paramedic license (in or out of state) may be used as the pathway to establish eligibility. The expiration date used for the EMT certification will be the same as the paramedic license in that first cycle.
- Reinstatement of EMT certificate lapsed over 24 months - the regulations refer a lapse of 24 months or more back to the initial certification requirements of which a current and valid paramedic license qualifies as one pathway.

A paramedic license MAY NOT be used to establish eligibility for an EMT certificate that has lapsed less than 24 months. The regulations provide specific requirements for CE hours, skills verification and background checks for EMTs that are lapsed less than six months, 6-12 months and 12-24 months.

Please refer to Sections §100079 and §100081 of the Chapter 2 EMT regulations found on the [EMT page](#). If you have questions, please contact Betsy Slavensky at (916)431-3717 or betsy.slavensky@emsa.ca.gov.

Changing a Name or Correcting a SSN?

Certifying Entities that wish to update or change an EMT's name or SSN will need to do so in the Person mini-panel. An important step to this change is choosing an **Alias Type** such as Marital Status Change, Domestic Partnership or Other. If you do not choose the Type, the change will not be saved correctly in the system and future searches may be thwarted.

Central Registry Procedure Updates

There are THREE new procedures available now:

- 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 require additional clarification but remain available 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.

Newsletters Now Archived

Due to many requests for information from prior newsletters, we have added prior 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.

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.

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

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

KEYWORDS:

PASSWORD

To reset a Central Registry password or request a paramedic accreditation 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 (Personnel Standards 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) 431-3713; 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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