



MEMORANDUM

TO: EMS Agencies
EMS District Officials
Other EMS Stakeholders

FROM: Dan Manz, EMS Chief

RE: New EMS legislation

DATE: June 3, 2010

Near the end of the 2010 legislative session, the VT legislature passed H.647 which included language that makes a number of significant changes for how EMS is regulated in VT. The bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 1, 2010 and took effect immediately.

Our Department is currently in the process of considering the language in the law and how best to implement it. The Department's key priorities are:

- To continue support for an orderly and inclusive EMS system with over 180 EMS agencies, nearly 3000 certified personnel and 15 hospitals that receive emergency patients.
- To comply with the language passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor
- To assure that the vulnerable population served by EMS have protections in place for safe and effective care

Once we have achieved clarity on the detailed effects of the new legislation we will provide further information. In the interim, there is a provision in the law that requires immediate action.

“Written and practical examinations shall not be required for recertification; however, to maintain certification, all individuals shall complete a specified number of hours of continuing education as established by rule by the commissioner.”

New policy- Effective immediately, written and practical examinations for recertification are no longer required. Until a specific number of hours for continuing education are established in rule, we suggest following the current guidelines for continuing education.

Applications for recertifying personnel will be processed according to the following procedures:

- First Responder ECAs and EMT-Basics should submit the current “Emergency Medical Services Certification Exam Application” form with the usual demographic information and squad leader signature and a CE form. Please leave blank the Exam location box on the cover page and the EMS examination notification portion on page 4.
- EMT-Intermediates- In addition to the above, submit a “Continuing Education” form that includes the EMS District Medical Advisor’s signature.
- EMT-Paramedics- No changes from the existing procedures.

Recertification Option- We have received a number of inquiries from EMS personnel about how this new law will affect reciprocity with other states, re-registration with the National Registry of EMTs, and similar uses of a VT EMT certification. While we do not yet have answers to those questions, if a person wishes to voluntarily participate in the former program of recertification through continuing education and testing, we will record that and provide documentation to other states, the National Registry of EMTs, affiliating squads and others who request it.

However, as we explained above, written and practical examinations for recertification are no longer required and NOT necessary to apply for and receive VT EMS recertification.

Accordingly, at this time, the Department will continue to maintain the existing recertification program for FRECAs, EMT-Basics and EMT-Intermediates. EMS staff will continue to work with local EMS District examination coordinators, EMS instructors and others to coordinate a schedule of refresher examination opportunities. Applicants who choose to continue meeting the former requirements may continue to submit continuing education hours and examination applications using the existing forms and according to the former procedures.

The Department will begin a rule making process under the provisions of the new law in the near future. We anticipate that through a statewide dialogue, we will establish new EMS rules that will meet the objectives previously stated. We appreciate everyone’s cooperation as we work to make the transition to implement this new law as smooth as possible.

The full text of H. 647 may be viewed at:

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/2010/bills/Passed/H-647.pdf>