

TO: EMS Agencies  
EMS District Officials  
Other EMS Stakeholders

FROM: Dan Manz, EMS Chief

DATE: July 28, 2010

RE: Important update regarding Act 142 and recertification testing  
This guidance replaces and supersedes EMS memo of June 3, 2010

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After careful deliberation and consultation with the Attorney General's Office on the meaning of the new language about testing requirements, we have received the legal analysis that the recertification process defined in the current rule remains in effect until adoption of a new rule.

Therefore, effective immediately, recertification requires successful completion of a written and practical test and the usual number of continuing education hours as provided in current rule and described on the standard Vermont EMS continuing education form.

Please be aware that the Vermont Department of Health is committed to working as quickly as possible to adopt a new rule, which will be effective no later than March 1, 2011. Until the new rule is adopted, however, the current rule remains in effect.

What EMTs must now do to maintain their certification is as follows:

- **For EMTs who have received recertification cards since June 3, 2010** – You will follow the recertification requirements that become effective with the new rule after March 1, 2011.
- **For EMTs who have filed a recertification application** and submitted the required documentation of continuing education, but have not yet received a recertification card – You must take the EMT recertification examination. The EMS Office will grant you an automatic six month extension of your current certification to allow you sufficient time to prepare for and take the test.
- **For EMTs who have certifications that will soon expire, but have not yet completed all requirements for recertification** – After July 31, 2010, you must have successfully passed the written and practical exams and completed the usual number of continuing education hours. If you need an extension for testing, you must apply to the EMS Office. We understand that EMTs who hold certifications that are soon to expire are more likely to need an extension, given the return to the testing requirement.

The Health Department will be working with EMS Districts to add additional exams as quickly as possible to accommodate recertification testing pending adoption of the new rule.

The current rule can be found at [http://www.healthvermont.gov/hc/ems/ems\\_rules.aspx](http://www.healthvermont.gov/hc/ems/ems_rules.aspx) .  
Recertification requirements are found in Section 6.

On behalf of the Vermont Department of Health, I apologize for any inconvenience or confusion caused by the ongoing analysis of the new law and return to the recertification process currently in rule. Our priority is to support an orderly, competent and inclusive EMS system that continues to provide effective care to all Vermonters who rely on these lifesaving services.