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VT EMS Transitions FAQs

Why is Vermont EMS transitioning to new license levels?

Over the past few years, EMS systems across the country have moved from the National Standard Curriculum which included the First Responder, EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate and EMT-Paramedic levels to the National Scope of Practice Model. As EMS systems become more integrated and more is learned about the effectiveness of certain interventions, this model adds new skills and phases out others. It also standardizes the scopes of practice to promote uniformity among Vermont's EMS districts and neighboring states.

How do I transition to a new license level?

You must take an approved EMS transition course. These courses are being offered around the state. Contact your squad training officer, your district training coordinator or consult the Class Schedule on the Vermont EMS website for information on upcoming courses. You will receive a course completion certificate at the end of the course which you must mail to the Vermont EMS office with your next license renewal application.

Do Vermont transition courses meet National Registry of EMTs standards?

Yes. Vermont has adopted the National Scope of Practice Model without modification, and all NREMT testing adheres to this model.

How do I get a National Registry of EMTs certification at my new license level?

Your path to NREMT certification at one of the new National Scope of Practice Model levels depends on your current Vermont license level and your NREMT status. Consult the "Transitioning to the new Scope of Practice" link in the Personnel Licensing section of the Vermont EMS website for information and find the document that describes your NREMT and Vermont license status.

Am I required to have a National Registry of EMTs certification at my new level?

Not necessarily, but it is universally encouraged. If you hold a current NREMT certification, you are required to transition that certification to the associated National Scope of Practice Model by the deadline established by NREMT. Consult their website at www.nremt.org to find out what the deadline is for your level. If you have never held a NREMT certification at your Vermont license level, you will not be required to gain a NREMT certification for that level, but it is encouraged. For instance, if you are a



Vermont EMT-Intermediate-03 who is transitioning to the Advanced EMT (AEMT) level, you are not required to gain a National Registry Advanced EMT certification. However, if you are a Vermont EMT-I-03 with a current NREMT-Basic certification, you ARE required to transition your NREMT-B certification to the new NR-EMT level.

Who can teach a transition course?

All transition instructors must have the approval of the EMS office and the district in which the course is taking place. At the EMR and EMT levels, the instructor can be any transitioned EMT, but transition instructors at the AEMT and Paramedic levels must hold a Vermont Instructor-Coordinator license at or above the level of the course

Is there a deadline for transitioning to the new license level?

Yes. All Vermont EMS personnel must transition to the new Scope of Practice Model level in accordance with the following timeline based on the National Registry of EMTs deadlines:

If you hold a current:	You must complete the transition by:
FR-ECA license due to expire in 2013 or 2015	December 31, 2015
FR-ECA license due to expire in 2014 or 2016	December 31, 2016
EMT-B license due to expire in 2013 or 2015	June 30, 2015
EMT-B license due to expire in 2014 or 2016	June 30, 2016
EMT-I license due to expire in 2013 or 2015	June 30, 2015
EMT-I license due to expire in 2014 or 2016	June 30, 2016
EMT-P license due to expire in 2013 or 2015	June 30, 2015
EMT-P license due to expire in 2014 or 2016	June 30, 2016

What happens if I don't transition to my new license level before the deadline?

Currently licensed Vermont EMS personnel who do not successfully transition to the new Scope of Practice level by the deadline will be issued a license at the next lower level upon successful completion of license renewal requirements for that level. For instance, an EMT-Basic who does not complete an EMT transition course by their deadline will be issued an Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) when they apply for license renewal.

If I take a transition course, do I also need to take a refresher course?

Vermont EMS personnel are not required to take a formal refresher course; however, you must complete all of the continuing education requirements of a National Registry of EMTs-approved refresher course during the two years of your EMS licensure. A transition course meets most, but not all, of the continuing education requirements of a refresher, so depending on the length of your transition course you may need to complete additional hours of CE to meet the refresher course requirements.

Can a transition course be combined with a refresher course?

Yes. Instructors are encouraged to incorporate transition programs into courses that fulfill all of the National Registry of EMTs' refresher course requirements.

How long is a transition course?

The length of your transition course depends on a couple of things. The minimum number of hours for delivery of the material is 12 hours at the EMR level, 16 hours at the EMT and AEMT levels and 18 hours at the Paramedic level; however, instructors may choose to increase the length of the course, especially if the course is also a refresher course.

How can I find a transition course?

Course information is posted in the Class Schedule link of the Vermont EMS website if it is received in a timely manner from the course coordinator. You may also ask your squad training officer or contact the training coordinator for your district and neighboring ones to see when a course may be taking place locally.

Will I have to take a test to get licensed at the new license level?

Not necessarily. There is no State test for transitioning to the new license levels, but districts may include some sort of evaluation as a course completion requirement. Additionally, if you are pursuing National Registry of EMTs certification, you may be required to pass their psychomotor and cognitive exams. See the "Transitioning to the new Scope of Practice" link in the Personnel Licensing section of the Vermont EMS website for NREMT requirements.

If I take a transition course in another state, will it count in Vermont?

The Vermont EMS office will consider accepting transition training in another state as a substitute for a Vermont transition if the curriculum definitively aligns with the Vermont standards. Each state's transition courses build on their previous levels, which vary from state to state, so their transition courses may not meet Vermont's requirements. Persons wishing to apply their out-of-state training to a Vermont transition should be prepared to provide a course syllabus and other course information to the Vermont EMS office.

Do the new license levels require more continuing education hours than the old ones?
No. The required number of continuing education hours remains unchanged.

When can I start using my new skills?
The new skills and interventions included in the National Scope of Practice Model may be used after the Vermont Statewide EMS Protocols are revised in mid-2013.

Do EMT-I-90s need to transition to the I-03 level before taking an AEMT transition course?
No. The EMT-I to AEMT transition course will bridge both EMT-I-90s and EMT-I-03s to the Advanced EMT level.

Am I eligible to transition to a new license level if my license has lapsed?
No. You must reinstate your lapsed EMS license before you can take a transition course.

Am I eligible to take a transition course and seek licensure at the new level if I haven't completed the licensure requirements for the old level (i.e., finished the course but not the testing)?
Yes, as long as your initial course ended less than two years ago and you successfully complete the National Registry of EMTs testing for the new level.

What if I have other questions not covered here?
You can contact the EMS office by email at vtems@state.vt.us or by phone at 802-863-7310.