



EMS Information Bulletin 2022-09

DATE: September 9, 2022

SUBJECT: U.S. Territories & Foreign National Requests for PA EMS Certification

TO: PA Regional EMS Councils & EMS Education Coordinators
EMS Educational Institutes
PA EMS Provider Candidates

FROM: Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
PA Department of Health
(717) 787-8740

Following an extensive internal and external review, an individual with current Emergency Medical Service certification/license/recognition from a United States Territory or as a Foreign National candidate, may pursue a comparable certification in Pennsylvania, based upon the National EMS Standards, as per the following guidelines:

1. Provide a copy of all documents, fully translated in English, concerning the educational program that the candidate attended in their home country. Items should include but are not individually limited to the course syllabus, course outline, documentation, transcripts, etc., as to the subject type and number of hours for the course. All documents should be submitted to the Pennsylvania Regional EMS Council, where the request for the active student/candidate will function or certification use will occur, for initial review by the council.
2. Schedule and successfully complete a skills review with the Pennsylvania EMS Agency Medical Director or his/her designee, and the Training Representative, or a Regional EMS Council Training Representative, based upon the most current Basic Life Support (BLS) Psychomotor Examination Skill Sheets utilized by the PA DOH. Advanced Life Support (ALS) Skills must also be evaluated for the ALS Level Practitioner, following the same method.
3. A review of the most current Pennsylvania Emergency Medical Services Act, its associated Rules and Regulations, the Pennsylvania Scope of Practice for Emergency Medical Service Providers, the Approved and Required Medication List for Emergency Medical Service Agency and Emergency Medical Service Providers must occur. The review may be conducted by the Regional EMS Council Training Representative or the Training Representative of the current or prospective EMS Agency.

4. Present a letter signed by your Pennsylvania EMS Agency Medical Director and Training Representative on organizational letterhead, addressed to the PA DOH BEMS, outlining all the items detailed above as having been evaluated, reviewed, understood, and successfully completed and agreed upon. Upon receipt of all documentation, the PA DOH BEMS will authorize, through the assigned Regional EMS Council, the appropriate level of Cognitive (computer based) Assessment Examination.
5. Candidate will then be able to schedule, through the assigned Regional EMS Council, the appropriate level of Cognitive (computer based) Assessment Examination with the NREMT, with the assistance of the Regional EMS Council, at the candidate or EMS agency expense.
6. Follow the PA DOH BEMS and NREMT guidelines for initial and subsequent, if any, examination attempts. The Regional EMS Council will also be of assistance in this area.
7. Maintain any additional required certifications such as Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR/BLS – Healthcare Provider Level), and Emergency Vehicle Operator (EVOC/EMSVO), where required. Additionally, the candidate must meet the EMS continuing education topic areas and hours required for their level of certification, including any Statewide Protocol Updates as they are issued, to function in a clinical and/or field role.
8. Upon successful completion of all items, the PA DOH BEMS will authorize the assigned Regional EMS Council, to issue the appropriate level of certification card for the duration of that level of certification. BLS Providers will receive a certification not to exceed three (3) years, while ALS Providers will receive a certification not to exceed two (2) years. Certification for Foreign Nationals will not be renewed beyond the initial certification period unless the provider presents a valid authorization to work in the United States or demonstrates that they have obtained United States Citizenship.

Please do not hesitate to contact your Regional EMS Council in the event of any questions.