

**Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
Development, Printing, Scoring and Distribution of Examinations
RFP Number 15372**

Responses to Written Questions

Question Number	Section	Page Number	Original Question	Response
1	General	N/A	What is the expected timeframe regarding notification of awarding contract to a vendor?	The term of the contract resulting from this RFP will be for five years proposed to commence on July 1, 2014 ending on June 30, 2019. It is anticipated that the award of this contract will be announced on or about April 25, 2014.
1a	General	N/A	Would NY State DOH BEMS please provide the award date for the winning bidder?	The term of the contract resulting from this RFP will be for five years proposed to commence on July 1, 2014 ending on June 30, 2019. It is anticipated that the award of this contract will be announced on or about April 25, 2014.
2a	Detailed Specifications Section F.1 Examination Development Reqs.	7-8	The RFP states that in the first year of the contract, new forms must be available for use for the first scheduled exam administration. Is there an item bank for the CLI and CIC exams?	No. The objective is to create the exams during the first year of the contract. CLI and CIC exams will be an entirely new process—therefore they may not be ready during the first year.
2b	Detailed Specifications Section F.1 Examination Development Reqs.	7-8	The RFP states that in the first year of the contract, new forms must be available for use for the first scheduled exam administration. If so, what is the expected timeframe for receipt of these items?	These items (CLI and CIC) will be developed during the first year of the contract at item development workshop(s).
2c	Detailed Specifications Section F.1 Examination Development Reqs.	8	The RFP states that in the first year of the contract, new forms must be available for use for the first scheduled exam administration. When is the first scheduled administration?	The first administration (of CLI and CIC exams) will be dependent on the Department's and the Contractor's ability to get an item bank of sufficient size and accuracy. The objective is to administer these exams during the second year of the contract.

Question Number	Section	Page Number	Original Question	Response
3	Detailed Specifications Section F.7 On-site Testing Locations	13	Are limits for onsite scoring (i.e., minimum candidate volume at each site) open for negotiation?	This will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis since the numbers are for the seats that are available for the Department to utilize on any one given exam administration. The Department will promote the sites to use as many seats as possible. Site usage agreements between the DOH and the site entity are in-place with each location, which details the number of available seats.
4	Financial Proposal Form (Attachment 3)	1	The RFP states 20,000 EMS applicants are tested annually. What is the projected annual candidate volume for each exam?	The Financial Proposal Form (Section A.1.) lists the estimated number of candidates tested annually.
5	General	N/A	Would NY State DOH BEMS please provide the number of administrations by test center location for each of the past two years?	There are up to approximately 200+ test centers each and every month. In most cases, the test centers are the same location where the certification course is taught, i.e. XYZ Ambulance Services location. The Department does not have data on each location where a course is held, which would show the number of exams at those locations.
6	General	N/A	Would NY State DOH BEMS please provide the total number of CLI and CIC examinations administered in each of the past two years, broken down by month?	The examinations are new and have never been administered--no statistics available. These exams would be administered at our Regional Test Sites throughout the state on an as-needed basis. An estimate for the past two years is between 750-1000 per year—monthly data is not available .

Question Number	Section	Page Number	Original Question	Response
7	General	N/A	Would NY State DOH BEMS provide a file containing the zip codes of the testing candidates for the two most recent years that data is available? For example, this may be a comma-delimited file containing records that reflect the year of testing and the corresponding home address zip code of each candidate that tested (2012, 04333, etc.; 2013, 04333, etc.). If this information is not available, could the DOH provide candidate volume by test center location, city, metro area, county, or other geographical category?	There are up to approximately 200+ test centers each and every month. In most cases, the test centers are the same location where the certification course is taught, i.e. XYZ Ambulance Services location. The Bureau does not have data on each location where a course is held, which would show the number of exams at those locations. The residential zip codes of the students address, many times does not reflect where they took the course or the exam.
8	Background Overview Section	4	What is the annual exam volume for the CLI and CIC exams?	It is expected that on an annual basis 200 CIC's will be tested and 300-500 CLI's will be tested.
9	Detailed Specifications Section F.1 Examination Development Reqs.	8	What is the size of the CLI, CIC and EMT-CC operational item banks?	There are no items developed as of yet for the CLI and CIC item bank. The EMT-CC has approximately 2,000 items in the current bank.
10	General	N/A	Will item and exam statistics for the CLI, CIC and EMT-CC exams be provided to the winning bidder?	There is no statistical data available as of yet for CLI and CIC. Statistical analysis for all other items will be provided to the winning bidder through transitional meetings with BEMS and the current vendor.
11	Detailed Specifications Section F.2. Item Bank and Examination Development	8	Will the winning bidder be responsible for managing the CLI, CIC and EMT-CC item banks?	Yes

Question Number	Section	Page Number	Original Question	Response
12	General	N/A	What equating procedures are used for the CLI, CIC and EMT-CC exams? Do they use Item Response Theory (IRT) or Classical equating methods, such as common-item equating, true score equating, etc.? How do they ensure that scores are comparable across exams forms?	Generally, this is in-part left up to the psychometricians from the vendor to assist with. Generally, Classical Equating Methods are used.
13	General	N/A	What is the procedure for determining cut scores for the CLI, CIC and EMT-CC exams?	70% passing grade for the entire CIC and CLI exam. A passing grade of 70% on the EMT portion and the CC portion of the EMT-CC exam.
14	General	N/A	Are candidates provided with raw and/or scaled scores on their score report?	Candidates are provided with their overall score as well as itemized scores for each section of the blueprint as well as the state averages for their exam.
15	General	N/A	Would NY State DOH BEMS please provide the expected implementation date for the winning bidder?	It is expected that the winner bidder will be able to provide all examination services within 30 days of signed contract approval by the New York State Comptroller.
16	General	N/A	Will the NY State DOH BEMS please provide blueprints/content outlines for all exams?	Response to this question is contained on the last two pages of this document. SEE BELOW

Response to Question Number 8 (Following 2 pages)

	CFR	EMT
Preparatory	11	13
A&P		
Med Term		
Physio		
Life Span		
Pub		
Health		
Pharm		
Airway	6	7
Pt. Assess	5	17
Medicine	5	28
Trauma	4	17
Shock	9	8
Special Pop	6	6
Ops	4	4
Pilot Items	5	10
Total Items	55	110

		A-EMT	Paramedic
11	Introduction	20	25
	Preparatory		
	Anatomy & Physiology		
	Medical Terminology		
	Physiology		
	Life Span Development		
	Public Health		
	Pharmacology		
12	Airway	12	15
13	Patient Assessment	10	14
14	Medicine	23	46
15	Trauma/Shock/Resuscitation		
	1501 Shock & Resuscitation	13	20
	1502 Trauma	7	10
16	Special Patient Populations	10	15
17	EMS Operations	5	5
Totals		100	150

BLS Rubric for ALS Exams

01	Preparatory	9
02	Airway	5
03	Patient Assessment	13
04	Medicine	21
05	Trauma/Shock/Resuscitation	
	0501 Shock & Resuscitation	6
	0502 Trauma	13
06	Special Patient Populations	5
07	EMS Operations	3
Totals		75

Critical Care Exam

	<i># Items</i>
Preparatory	27
Airway	10
Patient Assessment	10
Trauma	11
Medical	23
Cardiology	28
Special	16
	125