

**New York State Department of Health  
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services**

**Reciprocity Packet**

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**Application and Instructions**

For EMS Certification Based on  
Out-of-State and Military EMS  
Certification or Licensure



Reciprocity Unit  
New York State Department of Health  
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems  
875 Central Avenue  
Albany, New York 12206-1388

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# Reciprocal EMS Certification

The New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems (BEMS) considers granting reciprocal certification to individuals who hold certification within the fifty (50) states and from the District of Columbia. BEMS does not grant reciprocity to individuals who have obtained certification from other countries or the US Territories, unless they hold a current National Registry of EMT's (NREMT) certification.

Reciprocity means granting New York State (NYS) certification based on certification from another state, NREMT or Military rather than taking a NYS EMS original or refresher course. BEMS recognizes EMR/CFR, EMT, AEMT and Paramedic as eligible levels of certification for reciprocity.

The following is a synopsis of the criteria that must be met in order to be eligible for reciprocity in NYS. These and all other requirements in this document must be met:

- a. The applicant is at least 18 years of age for EMT, AEMT or Paramedic (16 years of age for CFR).
- b. The applicant has not been convicted of any crimes in accordance with 10 NYCRR 800.12 (Title 10 of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations Part 800, see appendix)
- c. The applicant has successfully completed a course that meets or exceeds a curriculum based on the current National EMS Education Guidelines for the certification level sought.
- d. The applicant has successfully completed a state (Non-NYS) recognized or NREMT practical skills examination within the past 18 months from the date of application submission.
- e. The applicant has successfully completed a state recognized (Non-NYS) or NREMT written examination within the past 18 months from the date of application submission.
- f. The applicant has received state certification or licensure from their home state EMS authority or has a current National Registry of EMT certification based on a non-NYS EMS educational program completion and the student has not completed clinical educational requirements in NYS.
- g. Applicants seeking paramedic reciprocity who began their initial paramedic education on or after January 1, 2013, must have received their state or

NREMT paramedic certification from an educational program that is accredited through the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

## **Determining Your Eligibility for Reciprocity**

Please use the following descriptions to determine eligibility for reciprocity and file the application packet accordingly.

### **Allied Healthcare Providers**

The Bureau of EMS is **ONLY** able to grant reciprocity based on levels of **EMS certification or licensure** issued by another state or the NREMT. New York State licensed allied health professionals may be eligible for advanced standing in an EMS course. This is **not** reciprocity. Please refer to the current BEMS Policy Statement that pertains to Advanced Standing.

### **Previously Certified in New York State**

Applicants may be eligible to apply for reciprocity at a level for which they have previously been certified in NYS, but are currently expired. However, applicants must have successfully completed a state (Non-NYS) or NREMT recognized Practical Skills and Written examination within the last 18 months. Current certification must be based on a non-NYS EMS educational program and must have consisted of **no more than 49%** online didactic education. If this testing requirement has not been met, recertification **MUST** be obtained by completing the NYS recertification and examination requirements. This includes successfully passing the state practical skills and written certification examinations. If the applicant requires a refresher course because they do not currently hold a NREMT or other state certification they must enroll in a NYS refresher course. Locations may be obtained from a Course Sponsor or the Regional Council as listed on the following site:

<http://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/ems/certification/reciprocity.htm>

### **Currently Certified in New York State (Level Change)**

Applicants may be eligible to apply for reciprocity at a level for which they have not previously been certified in NYS as long as they hold a current certification card from another state or NREMT. However, applicants must have successfully completed a state (Non-NYS) or NREMT recognized Practical Skills and Written examination within the last 18 months. Applicants who have not successfully completed these testing requirements, **MAY** be issued a letter allowing enrollment into a New York State approved Practical Skills and Written examination. Current certification must be based on a non-NYS EMS educational program and must have consisted of **no more than 49%** online didactic education.

## National Registry of EMTs (NREMT)

The Bureau of EMS is able to grant direct reciprocity for individuals who hold only National Registry certification, as long as they have completed a state (Non-NYS) recognized or NREMT Practical Skills and Written Examination within the last 18 months. Applicants who have not successfully completed these testing requirements, **MAY** be issued a letter allowing enrollment into a New York State approved Practical Skills and Written examination. Current NREMT certification must be based on a non-NYS EMS educational program and must have consisted of **no more than 49%** online didactic education.

## Out of State Certified Providers

The Bureau of EMS is able to grant direct reciprocity for individuals who hold a certification from another state, as long as they have completed a state (Non-NYS) recognized or NREMT Practical Skills and Written Examination within the last 18 months. Applicants who have not successfully completed these testing requirements, **MAY** be issued a letter allowing enrollment into a New York State approved Practical Skills and Written examination. Current certification must be based on a non-NYS EMS educational program and must have consisted of **no more than 49%** online didactic education.

## Military Trained/National Park Services Affiliated

The Bureau of EMS may be able to grant reciprocity to a member or veteran of the United States military who received training from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, or to members of the National Park Services if the following conditions have occurred:

1. Training was completed at a military branch medical training facility (Base, Post, Fort or Station) which has been identified to the Department of Health as the location for all training of military service medical personnel,
2. The training followed the current National EMS Education Guidelines.
3. The applicant has submitted a certificate of completion from the specific branch of military service and documentation that the duty assignment was medical in nature and comparable to a civilian EMT (e.g. Army MOS 68W), and
4. Have successfully completed a state (Non-NYS) or NR practical skills and written certification exam within the last 3 years.

## Instructors

The Bureau of EMS is able to grant direct reciprocity for instructors who hold a certification from another state. This will be reviewed on a case by case basis. Copies of Instructor level certifications, licensures, and course completion certificates are required.

## BEMS Course Sponsors

BEMS approved course sponsors may accept any reciprocity applicant to complete a NYS Final Practical Skills Examination. Each course sponsor must contact the BEMS Central Office to obtain directions on how to enroll these individuals. Applicants will contact course sponsors directly to arrange admission to their PSE and they will have a letter of admission to the PSE from BEMS. BEMS funding for the PSE is available for anyone who takes the PSE. **Once BEMS has received proof that an applicant has successfully completed the NYS Final PSE, the applicant will be scheduled at a Regional Test Site to take the NYS Written Certification Examination.**

## Applicants with Criminal Convictions

According to NYS regulations (10 NYCRR 800), if the applicant has been convicted of certain crimes or are currently under charges for such a crime, the department reserves the right to deny you EMS certification. Each situation is reviewed individually and a decision is made whether or not to allow applicants to become certified. If the application is falsified, certification may be revoked and/or a civil penalty may be imposed. The Department of Health (DOH) will review all criminal convictions from any federal, military or state jurisdiction to determine if such convictions fall within the scope of those specified in Part 800, or represent a potential risk or danger to patients or the public at large. The current BEMS policy statement, which can be found at our web site at:

<http://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/ems/policy/policy.htm>

The regulation does not prevent a candidate with a criminal conviction from attending and completing all of the requirements of an EMS course. However, it may prevent the candidates from becoming certified in New York State until DOH has reviewed the circumstances of the conviction(s) and made a determination that the candidate does not demonstrate a risk or danger to patients. If DOH makes such a determination, the candidate will be eligible to take the NYS practical and written certification examinations, if otherwise qualified. Applicants with such a record of charges, or who are uncertain of such charges against them should not sign the application form, but may submit the application for review and investigation. Candidates **WILL NOT** be permitted to take the NYS practical or written certification examinations until the background review and investigation is completed and a determination is made.

## **Returned Applications**

Occasionally applicants send in reciprocity packets that are missing documents, application forms, filing fees, or other necessary information. If the application packet is returned for any reason, the applicant will have 90 days from the date of return by DOH, to correct any deficiencies and resubmit the packet for continued processing. Should the applicant fail to submit required materials within the 90 day period the application and fee will expire. After 90 days the applicant will be required to resubmit the application with a new filing fee. It is important for you to follow all instructions included with a returned packet in order to minimize any delay in processing the reciprocity request.

## **Unrecognized Reciprocities**

Reciprocity is not granted for any certification or license that was obtained through reciprocity. If the applicant was granted reciprocity by the state from which they are applying, the applicant must also have completed that state's refresher and/or training requirements, including a practical and written exam within the last 18 months.

## **Length of Certification**

New York State issues certification for a 36 month period. For reciprocity applicants, the Bureau of EMS will issue certification for the time remaining on the applicant's current state or NREMT certification or license as long as it does not exceed 36 months. If there is no expiration date listed on the current certification or license or the current expiration date exceeds 36 months NYS will grant a certification that will expire 36 months from the date the application for reciprocity is approved and NYS certification is issued.

## **Requesting a Reciprocity Application Packet**

To receive an application and instructions for reciprocity from NYS, visit our web site at:  
<http://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/ems/certification/reciprocity.htm>

Or mail a request to:

New York State Department of Health  
Bureau of EMS, Reciprocity Unit  
875 Central Avenue  
Albany, NY 12206-1388

**Please include full name, current street address or PO Box, city, state and zip code and daytime phone number.**

# Guide to Applying for Reciprocal Certification in NYS

***All the forms and information necessary for filing are included. Please read the following instructions and follow them carefully. Failure to correctly submit your packet as instructed may cause delays or denial of your application.***

***STEP #1 - Determine eligibility for New York State reciprocity based on the information contained in this packet***

***The application MUST be returned notarized with original signatures.***

- STEP #2 - Fill out the form titled “**Application for New York State EMT Reciprocity**” DOH-2183 found in this booklet. Complete all questions legibly and carefully read the Personal Affirmation Statement (shaded area). If the statement is true, it must be signed and dated. If it is not true do not sign and see section on criminal convictions. In addition sign the application in the lower right corner in the presence of a Notary.
- STEP #3 - Complete the top portion of the “**EMT Sheet for Reciprocity**” DOH-2177  
**PLEASE PRINT NEATLY IN BLOCK CAPITAL LETTERS ONE LETTER OR NUMBER IN EACH BOX.**
- STEP #4 - Fill out the **TOP (un-shaded)** portion of the form titled “**Verification of EMT Certification**”. Leave the shaded portion and the bottom sections blank. Send this form to the EMS office of the state where you are currently certified or licensed along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope (not provided in packet). The state EMS office will complete the middle portion of the form to verify your certification or licensure status and will return the form to **you** in the envelope you provided.

**DO NOT OPEN THE ENVELOPE.** Leave the envelope sealed, and send it with the completed application. ***Applicants who hold only National Registry status DO NOT need to send this form to National Registry. Complete only the top portion of the verification form and submit it to NYS DOH with the rest of the packet.***

- STEP #5 - Make photocopies of your state or NREMT issued certification card or license and valid provider level CPR card. If the applicant has military training and National Registry status, include photocopies of military medical training certificates and all pertinent documents with your application. These documents are required to process the request for reciprocity and will **not be returned**.

**DO NOT submit original documents**

- STEP #6 - The application filing fee must be in the form of a certified check, money order, or other form of guaranteed funds. The fee is \$25.00 for EMR/CFR/EMT and \$50.00 for AEMT, Paramedic and Instructor. The fee must be made payable to **New York State Department of Health** and is not refundable for any reason regardless of the application determination.

***PERSONAL CHECKS or CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED***

- STEP #7 - Mail the completed application packet to the address at the bottom of the checklist. You may use the address provided at the end of the checklist as your mailing label by cutting it out and taping it to the outside of the mailing envelope.

*It is suggested that the application packet is submitted by certified mail with a return receipt requested to ensure that the packet is received by the NYS Bureau of EMS.*

For questions about eligibility or the application for reciprocity, please contact the Reciprocity Unit at (518) 402-0996 or write to:

Reciprocity Unit,  
New York State Department of Health,  
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services,  
875 Central Avenue, Albany NY 12206-1388

## **Fees for Reciprocity Applications**

**\$25.00 for EMR/CFR and EMT**

**\$50.00 for AEMT, Paramedic and Instructor**

**Certified Check or Money Order made payable to NYS Dept. of Health**

**No Personal Checks will be Accepted**

# Instructions for Completion of the EMT Sheet for Reciprocity

Each field on this form must be filled out legibly and accurately. Failure to do so may cause a delay in the processing of the application for reciprocity. Only **ONE** letter or number may be entered in each box of a given field.

## **CAPITALIZE EACH LETTER ON THIS FORM.**

- EMT Number:** Leave this box **BLANK** unless previously issued a **New York State EMT number**. If a NYS EMT certification was held at some time in the past, please enter it as it appeared on the certification card.
- Last Name & Suffix:** Enter last name. If a suffix such as Jr., Sr., III, etc. is used skip one space after last name and enter the suffix.
- First Name & Middle Initial:** Enter first name, skip a space, and enter middle initial.
- Address:** Enter mailing address. Include house, apartment, or post office box number, the street name, and any other address information that is commonly used for mail delivery.
- City:** Enter the city, village, or town for the mailing address.
- State:** Enter the state for mailing address.
- Zip Code:** Enter the zip code for mailing address.
- County:** Enter the first four (4) letters of the name of the COUNTY for your mailing address. NOTE: Manhattan is NEWY, Staten Island is RICH, Brooklyn is KING, and St. Lawrence is STLA. **If you live outside of New York State, you must enter OUTS.**
- Date of Birth:** Enter your date of birth. The date should be formatted as month/day/year (MM/DD/YY). Use zero (0) in front of single digits. [Example: February 6, 1960 would be entered as 02 06 60]
- Sex:** Enter F for female or M for male.
- Social Security Number:** Enter Social Security Number.

**Do not enter any information in any field on this form other than the fields listed above.**