



NAEMT Position Statement Minimum EMS Licensure Requirements

Statement:

NAEMT believes that all U.S. states and territories should adopt a consistent set of minimum licensure and re-licensure requirements for emergency medical technicians and paramedics. Consistency in these requirements will help foster and support the delivery of quality patient care and protect patients, EMS practitioners, EMS agencies and communities. The following minimum requirements should be included:

1. Be at least 18 years of age.
2. Maintain a valid driver's license.
3. Possess a high school diploma or equivalent.
4. Pass a local and national criminal background check.
5. Pass a drug screening test.
6. Possess a National Registry certification.
7. Be fingerprinted.

For re-licensure, all states should require the same number of continuing education hours for emergency medical technicians and paramedics as required by the National Registry.

The lack of consistent EMS licensure and re-licensure requirements inhibits the ability of our nation to develop and maintain a professional, well-trained, and reliable EMS workforce.

Background

Currently, there is no agreement between states on EMS licensure and re-licensure requirements. Some states only require proof of NREMT certification for licensure; some states do not issue EMS licenses but rather accept the NREMT certification card in lieu of a license. There is even greater variation with re-licensure requirements.

A survey was conducted in 2013 by the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) confirming that EMS licensure and re-licensure requirements vary greatly from one state to the next.* Lack of consistent licensure requirements contradicts the stated desire of all EMS stakeholders – practitioners, agencies, state officials, and federal agencies with jurisdiction over EMS – to strengthen the EMS workforce in order to meet evolving patient care needs within our communities and fully participate in state and national disaster response.

*NASEMSO Annual Report to the National EMS Advisory Council May 2013