

MEMORANDUM

TO: Training Officers, District Training Coordinators
FROM: Dan Manz, Director
DATE: April 18, 2007
SUBJECT: Change in First Responder-ECA Recertification and Transition Testing

Since 2003, the Department of Health has used a National Registry of EMT's assessment exam as our state First Responder-ECA recertification test. On January 1, 2007, the National Registry switched all of its exams, including the Assessment exam, from the paper and pencil format to a computer-based test.

We remain committed to retaining the FR-ECA certification as an easily deliverable and attainable entry level for EMS personnel. After more than two months with computer based testing, we have determined that it is not the best way to **renew or transition to** First Responder-ECA certifications. While computer based testing has many advantages, there are cost and access issues which have led us to an alternative only for FR-ECA recertifications. Because of the improved human measurement characteristics of computer based testing and the importance of meeting a nationally recognized standard, we will continue use of the National Registry of EMTs First Responder and EMT-Basic exams for initial certifications.

We are developing a Vermont paper-and-pencil examination, but it will not be available for a few months. **Therefore, effective immediately, any FR-ECA or ECA85 with a current certification that is due to expire before September 2007 and who continues to meet other requirements for certification (e.g., affiliation with a Vermont licensed EMS agency) is authorized by this memo to continue functioning at the FR-ECA or ECA85 level until September 30, 2007.** Certification dates will not be affected by this extension. For example, a FR-ECA certification with an April 2007 expiration date will be renewed for April 2009, regardless of when the person completes the recertification (as long as it's by September 2007).

The practical examination process will not change: it will be coordinated at the squad or district level, just as it is today. The written exam, previously offered at the squad level, will now only be offered at recertification exam sites proctored by Vermont EMS personnel (i.e., EMT recertification exam sites).

Please retain a copy of this memo and include it in the personnel files of all your current First Responder-ECAs and ECA85s. It will serve as official notice that their certifications will remain valid through September 30, 2007.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ray Walker at 802-863-7274.