



EMS Provider Certification Frequently Asked Questions



Initial - Colorado Education/Certification Information:

Q: What is the age requirement for EMS Provider Certification?

A: An individual is required to be 18 years of age at time of application.

Q: Is there a fee to become certified in Colorado?

A: No. The State does not charge a fee for state certification.

Q: I have never been an EMS Provider and would like to become one. How do I complete the requirements?

A: Complete an initial EMS Provider course conducted by a state-recognized education program. A list of those education centers can be found at www.coems.info. After completing your program, pass the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians' (NREMT) written and practical examinations and become certified by the NREMT. Information regarding the NREMT can be found at: www.nremt.org.

Q: If I received my education in another state but never got certified in that state, how do I become certified in Colorado?

A: Contact the NREMT to determine whether you are eligible to sit for their examination based upon your out-of-state education. The NREMT contact information is www.nremt.org, telephone number (614) 888-4484. Depending upon the length of time since your original course completion and the requirements of the state in which you received your EMS education, the NREMT will determine your eligibility for NREMT certification.

Q: If I have a current NREMT certificate, how do I become certified in Colorado?

A: You must complete all Colorado application requirements and submit the application packet to the EMTS Section, Certification Unit. The application can be found on our web site at: www.coems.info.

Q: Does Colorado have reciprocity with any states?

A: No. You must have a current NREMT certification.

Q: If I am certified in another state and I have NREMT certification, how do I become certified in Colorado?

A: You must complete all Colorado application requirements and submit the application packet to the EMTS Section, Certification Unit. The application can be found on our website at: www.coems.info.

Q: If I am certified in another state but am not NREMT certified, how do I become certified in Colorado?

A: If you are certified in another state, you will be required to achieve NREMT certification by completing the written and practical examinations. Upon successful NREMT certification and submission of a completed application for Colorado certification, you are eligible to be certified in Colorado.

Q: What levels of EMS Providers are there in Colorado?

A: After July 2011, Colorado will have 4 levels of EMS Providers.
EMT (formerly EMT-Basic) EMT-I (Intermediate-99)
Advanced EMT (AEMT) Paramedic (formerly EMT-Paramedic)

Q: Are there different applications for EMT, AEMT, EMT-Intermediate, or Paramedic levels?

A: No. The application on our web site is used for all Colorado EMS Provider certification levels.

Q: How do I get my fingerprints done to send to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI)?

A: Most local law enforcement agencies (police or sheriff departments) will provide finger printing services to the public. Contact your local law enforcement agency to get more information regarding their hours of operation, fees, etc. The completed fingerprint card is then mailed along with the appropriate fee to the CBI (see below).

Q: When should I submit my fingerprint card to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI)?

A: Fingerprint cards may be submitted to the CBI at the same time you submit your application for certification to this office. Processing of the criminal background check by the CBI may require 8-12 weeks; you may want to submit your fingerprint card to the CBI prior to submitting your application to this office to avoid delays in processing your application.

Q: Once I submit my fingerprints, do I get my Criminal History Report?

A: No, the Criminal History Reports are sent directly to the EMTS Section, Certification Unit and kept on file awaiting your application.

Q: Is there a charge by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation for the Criminal History Report?

A: Yes, \$17.50 for Colorado (CBI) only and \$39.50 for Colorado (CBI) and Federal (FBI) criminal history report..

Q: If I am applying from another state, what can I do to get my fingerprint card processed correctly?

A: Submit your fingerprint card to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) with a money order for \$39.50 and circle "FBI" in the upper right hand corner. The address for the CBI can be found on the instructions that accompany the application or on the CBI's website at www.cbi.state.co.us or call 303-239-4208.

Q: If I had my fingerprints taken before, for either the military or another company, why do I have to do my fingerprints again for EMS Provider certification?

A: Fingerprint based criminal history reports are confidential and are the property of the agency requesting the report. Agencies are not allowed to share this information, so a separate fingerprint based criminal history report is required for Colorado EMS Provider certification.

Q: Are felonies and misdemeanors grounds for denial of an EMS Provider certification?

A: Each application is reviewed on an individual basis. Please see the EMTS Section's Criminal Conviction Policy on our website at www.coems.info. Applicants should submit court documents for felony charges/convictions with their applications.

Q: How long will it take to process my application?

A: Depending on your submission of the criminal background check request, you should allow four to six weeks for your application to be processed by the EMTS Section. (Note: CBI/FBI criminal background checks may take 8-12 weeks for processing.)

Q: What are considered acceptable forms of identification?

A: The Colorado Department of Revenue rules set forth acceptable forms of ID, including:

- Colorado Driver's License
- Colorado State ID
- U.S. Birth Certificate
- U.S. Passport (within 5 years of date of issue)
- U.S. Military ID
- U.S. Military Dependent ID
- U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner card
- Native American tribal documents
- Drivers license from another state. Note: Colorado **does not** accept a driver's license from: Illinois, New Mexico, Utah, Washington, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Island.
- For more information regarding acceptable forms of identification, please see the Department of Revenue's web http://www.revenue.state.co.us/EDO_dir/wrap.asp?incl=LawfulPresenceRules

Q: Which organizations' CPR cards are acceptable for certification in Colorado?

A: **American Heart Association (AHA)** Healthcare Provider, BLS Instructor, BLS Training Center Faculty; **Military Training Network (MTN)** Healthcare Provider, Healthcare Provider-Instructor, BLS Instructor, BLS Training Site Faculty; **American Red Cross (ARC)** CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer; **American Safety & Health Institute (ASHI)** BLS for Healthcare Providers and First Responders, CPR Pro for Healthcare Providers and First Responders, CPR Pro for the Professional Rescuer; **American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons (AAOS)** Professional Rescuer CPR; **American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP)** Instructor; **EMS Safety Systems, Inc.** CPR & AED For Professional Rescuer; **National Safety Council (Green Cross)** BLS Healthcare and Professional Rescuer Instructor - PR designation.

Q: Which organizations' ACLS cards are acceptable for certification in Colorado?

A: **American Heart Association (AHA)** ACLS Provider, ACLS Instructor, ACLS Experienced Provider, ACLS Experienced Provider Instructor, ACLS Regional Faculty; **Military Training Network (MTN)** ACLS Provider, ACLS Instructor, ACLS Training Site Faculty; **American Safety & Health Institute (ASHI)** ASHI ACLS, ACLS Instructor; **American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP)** eACLS Provider (renewal only), eACLS Instructor (renewal only).

Q: If I have changed my name and address, do I need to notify your office?

A: Yes. You are required by the Rules Pertaining to EMS Education and Certification to notify the EMTS Section of any address or name change.

Renewal - Colorado Education/Certification Information:

Q: What is the EMS Provider certification period in Colorado?

A: Your Colorado certificate is valid for 3 years.

Q: Are there different applications for initial certification and renewal certification?

A: No. The application on our web site serves both initial and renewal of Colorado certification.

Q: I am currently certified in Colorado. How do I renew my Colorado certificate?

A: To renew your Colorado certificate, you must submit a completed application with one of three methods of meeting the education requirements:

1. Current NREMT certification:

OR

2. Complete a refresher course from a Colorado recognized education program and have your skills attested to by a Colorado recognized education program or an EMS Medical Director;

OR

3. Complete the required minimum hours of continuing education that is approved by a Colorado recognized education program and have your skills attested to by a Colorado recognized education program or an EMS Medical Director.

Q: My Colorado certification has expired, can I still renew?

A: Yes. If your Colorado certificate is expired less than six (6) months from your certificate expiration date, you may apply to renew your certification. To receive a new Colorado certificate, you must submit a completed application with one of three methods of meeting the education requirements:

1. Current NREMT certification:

OR

2. Complete a refresher course from a Colorado recognized education program and have your skills attested to by a Colorado recognized education program or an EMS Medical Director;

OR

3. Complete the required minimum hours of continuing education that is approved by a Colorado recognized education program and have your skills attested to by a Colorado recognized education program or an EMS Medical Director.

Q: I am currently certified as a Colorado EMS Provider. How many continuing education hours do I need to renew my certificate?

A: Below are the current continuing education hour requirements for each level.

EMS Provider Level	Required Continuing Education Hours
<p style="text-align: center;">EMT and AEMT</p>	<p>1 hour - Preparatory content including scene safety, quality improvement, health and safety of EMS providers, or medical legal concepts 2 hours - OB patient assessment and treatment 2 hours - Pediatric patient assessment and treatment 6 hours - Trauma patient assessment and treatment 5 hours - Patient assessment 3 hours - Airway assessment and management 6 hours - Medical/behavioral emergency patient assessment and management 11 hours - Elective content relevant to the practice of emergency medicine Total = 36 hours every 3 years</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">EMT-Intermediate and Paramedic</p>	<p>8 hours - Airway, breathing, and cardiology assessment and treatment 4 hours - Medical patient assessment and treatment 3 hours - Trauma patient assessment and treatment 4 hours - OB patient assessment and treatment 4 hours - Pediatric patient assessment and treatment 2 hours - Operational tasks 25 hours - Elective content relevant to the practice of emergency medicine Total = 50 hours every 3 years</p>

Q: Where can I find information about continuing education offerings and refresher courses?

A: You should contact a local Colorado recognized education program to find out about education offerings. The list of Colorado recognized education programs can be found at: www.coems.info. The state **does not** keep track of individual course offerings.

Q: If I am not practicing as an EMS Provider or affiliated with any EMS agency, what do I do with the continuing education hours I have received when I apply for certification renewal?

A: You should contact a Colorado recognized education program for review of your continuing education hours. These agencies approve the education requirements for state certification. The list of Colorado recognized education programs can be found at: www.coems.info. The state **does not** sign off on continuing education hours or skill attestations, so there is no need to include CEU course completion certificates for your education hours with the certification application.

Q: Can I use my CPR and/or ACLS training as part of my continuing education hours for renewal?

A: Yes. CPR and/or ACLS may be used once during your 3-year renewal period. The hours for these courses should be applied to the Elective category.

Q: Is there a grace period on expired certificates?

A: No! Your certificate expires on the date it expires. You may **not** practice as an EMS Provider after your certification expires.

Q: My certificate expired over six months ago. What do I need to do?

A: Complete the requirements to achieve NREMT certification. These requirements may be found at www.nremt.org. Once this requirement has been met, applicants must complete all other Colorado application requirements outlined for initial certification.

National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) Information:

Q: How do I schedule an examination with the NREMT?

A: The process for taking the NREMT examination at any level begins through a Colorado recognized education center or education group. You should contact a recognized center or group to obtain the authorization necessary to sit for NREMT written or practical examinations. A listing of recognized education centers and groups is available at www.coems.info.

Q: How do I keep my NREMT certification current?

A: The information you need to keep your NREMT certification current may be found by visiting the NREMT's web site: www.nremt.org or by calling the NREMT at 614-888-4484.

Q: What is the difference between NREMT certification and Colorado certification?

A: The NREMT is a non-governmental agency whose certification is used as one of the requirements to achieve Colorado EMS Provider certification. Having NREMT certification **does not** substitute for Colorado certification. Colorado certification is issued through the EMTS Section and is valid for a three-year period. Colorado certification is required of all EMS Providers practicing in the state of Colorado.

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Q: What if I have more questions?

A. Be sure to go to our website at www.coems.info. The application instruction guide will be able to provide you with the answers to your questions. You may also contact the EMTS Section at: 303-692-2980
cdphe.emtcert@state.co.us.