

Delay in the implementation of changes to the recertification process for EMS providers in Virginia.

Recently announced changes in the EMS recertification process pertaining to the elimination of testing requirements or the requirement to obtain a test waiver will be delayed. Originally scheduled to take effect July 1, 2013, changes to the EMS recertification process must be delayed until regulatory reviews can be completed.

During the 2013 session of the Virginia General Assembly, several bills (HB1622 and SB 790) were introduced and subsequently passed that amended §32.1-111.5 of the *Code of Virginia* by removing the requirement for EMS providers to take a written examination or obtain a waiver from testing from the relevant operational medical director (OMD) in order to recertify their EMS certification.

Before regulations can be adopted and put into effect, specific steps must be completed that are required by law and defined in the Administrative Process Act. Following the passage of HB1622 and SB790, the Office of EMS (OEMS) developed and submitted a regulatory package to request the adoption of certain changes to specific sections of the EMS Regulations related to the requirements for the recertification of EMS providers in order to conform to the new Code requirements.

One step in this regulatory review process requires the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to ensure statutory authority for the proposed regulations. **The OAG has ruled and informed the OEMS that implementation of the changes to the EMS recertification process cannot take effect until after a “fast-track” regulatory process is completed.** A number of stages exist in the process and it will take additional time to complete before the changes in EMS recertification can take effect.

Therefore, in the interim, no changes in the EMS recertification process will occur. This means, in order to recertify your EMS certification, you must:

1. Complete all continuing education (CE) requirements and submit the required documentation to the OEMS prior to the end of your certification expiration date. The OEMS must receive all required documentation no later than the close of business on the last day of your certification period. If the last day of your certification period falls on a weekend, then documentation must be received no later than the last business day of the month your certification is set to expire.
2. Take the written examination for the level being recertified, or if affiliated with a Virginia licensed EMS agency, submit a test waiver signed by the agency's OMD prior to the end of your certification expiration date.

The OEMS apologizes for any inconvenience the delay in the implementation of these changes to the EMS recertification requirements may cause. The OEMS will provide regular updates to the EMS community through our website and social media outlets. **At this time, it is unknown how long it will take to “fast-track” the changes to the EMS regulations.**

The OEMS will do everything we can to expedite completion of the “fast-track” regulatory review process. Once we complete the regulatory process and are able to implement these changes to the EMS recertification process, notification will be widely disseminated announcing the date that the new procedures for EMS recertification will take effect.