

**MASSACHUSETTS**  
**OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENT MANUAL**

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** November 4, 2024      **AUTHORIZATION:** Susan Lewis, Director

**TITLE:** EMT Certification and Recertification for Returning Veterans and EMTs Engaged in Active Military Service

**SUPERCEDES:** 6/17/2013

**Purpose:**

Pursuant to 105 CMR 170.931 of the EMS System regulations, to further explain the resources and assistance available to returning veterans and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) engaged in or recently discharged from active military service in the United States armed forces as members of the armed forces, including reserve or National Guard, or who accompanied a spouse who is engaged in or recently discharged from such military service, in obtaining and maintaining National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) certification and Massachusetts EMT certification. Both the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Office of Emergency Medical Services (Department) and the NREMT have a long history of assisting veterans and EMTs mobilized for active duty in obtaining certification and adjusting timelines to accommodate their military service and deployment.

Pursuant to MGL c. 111C, §3(b)(26), the Department is authorized to set standards, which may include following the NREMT's standards, for determining the extent to which the education and training requirements of veterans and military "medics" (meaning EMTs at all levels) of the United States armed forces are substantially equivalent to the course and training requirements of EMTs in the Commonwealth. Pursuant to MGL c. 111C, §9B, the Department may issue waivers to veterans or military medics of the armed forces, upon finding they have completed substantially equivalent training in accordance with its standards pursuant to MGL c. 111C, §3(b)(26). This administrative requirement (AR) sets out the standards for both determining equivalency of training, and for the waiver process.

Hereinafter, such individuals are termed "veterans" for purposes of this AR. Below are two ARs referenced in the process for veterans to obtain Massachusetts EMT certification.

AR 2-236 defines the process of EMT-Basic Certification based on Out-of-State EMT-Basic and Massachusetts Physician, Physician Assistant, Registered Nurse or Nurse Practitioner licensure.

AR 2-323 defines the process for Paramedic Certification based on Out-of-State Paramedic Certification.

**I. Veterans Seeking First-Time Massachusetts EMT Certification**

The NREMT has worked with all US military branches' education programs to ensure those serving as medics complete coursework meeting or exceeding the National EMS Education Standards, and allow such medics to be eligible for, or receive, NREMT certification upon completion. Veterans of the military returning from active duty, who do not hold Massachusetts EMT certification at any level, may apply for Massachusetts EMT certification as follows:

- A. Veterans who hold current NREMT EMT certification: Apply for Massachusetts certification through the procedures set out in AR 2-236.
- B. Veterans who hold current NREMT Paramedic certification: Apply in accordance with the procedures set out in AR 2-323.



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- C. Veterans who **held NREMT certification at any level that has now lapsed:** Contact the NREMT at [nremt.org](http://nremt.org) and identify yourself as a military veteran, for specific instructions on possible extensions of certification eligibility or instructions for re-entry to certification. Once NREMT certification is regained, apply for Massachusetts certification in accordance with A or B, above.
- D. Veterans who were mobilized for active military duty **after initiation of process for NREMT certification, but prior to obtaining NREMT certification:** Contact the NREMT at [nremt.org](http://nremt.org) and identify yourself as a military veteran. If active duty has resulted in the veteran missing a certification deadline, NREMT may be able to provide an extension of time to complete the process. NREMT will need a copy of your discharge summary form, DD-214, if you are now discharged, or a copy of your military orders, if you are about to leave for, or currently engaged in, active duty.
- E. Veterans who **do not hold current NREMT certification and seek EMT certification based on substantially equivalent military training:** Contact the Department at [oems.recert@mass.gov](mailto:oems.recert@mass.gov), for consideration of a waiver. Please be prepared to submit the following documentation:
  - 1. Evidence of military course substantial equivalence to the Massachusetts EMS training standards, including conformance to the National EMS Education Standards, for the level of certification sought. This may include course syllabi, outlines or reference materials.
  - 2. Evidence of demonstration of all relevant cognitive, psychomotor and affective domain competencies, including the completion of applicable Student Minimum Competencies, in accordance with ARs 2-307 and 2-305, as updated. This must have been completed within **two years** of waiver application to the Department.
  - 3. A copy of your Joint Services Transcript, or discharge summary form, DD-214, if you were discharged from active duty, or a copy of your military orders, if you are currently engaged in active service or are about to leave service.
  - 4. If requesting a waiver at the Paramedic level, if the veteran is not able to produce documentation of the above substantial equivalence, the Department may deny the waiver request, and allow the applicant to demonstrate appropriate competencies, or complete outstanding elements with a Department-accredited EMT training institution (ATI), as an "Advanced Placement" or based on a "Prior Learning Assessment," in accordance with procedures of the ATI, and/or CAAHEP/ CoAEMSP.
  - 5. A point of contact at, and authorization to speak with, the military training program, so the Department may make inquiries into additional education content, or the applicant's successful completion of elements.
- F. The Department will review the submitted waiver request and make a determination on the suitability of the education and eligibility for certification.
- G. Once NREMT certification is obtained, apply for Massachusetts certification in accordance with C., above.

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Under the EMS System regulations, 105 CMR 170.931, Massachusetts certified EMTs who have been mobilized for active duty and whose ability to meet the recertification deadlines for maintaining their Massachusetts certification has been affected by such active duty, may apply for extension of their Massachusetts certification. Contact OEMS, which has discretion to adjust certification periods due to active military service. OEMS will need a copy of your DD-214 discharge summary, if discharged from active duty; military orders, if currently engaged in active service or about to leave for active service, or evidence of active drill status, for reserve component recertifying EMTs. If you hold NREMT certification, you will be required to contact, and obtain an extension to this certification before OEMS may process an extension.

**Fee:** There is a \$150 nonrefundable fee payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for initial EMT certification, and a \$125 nonrefundable fee payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for recertification. Both fees must be submitted at the time of application.