

Renewing Your National Registry (NREMT) Certification

Recertification by continuing education: what counts, key dates and how to apply

Last checked October 26, 2026 against the National Registry of EMTs Recertification Guide (nremt.org).

The short version

- **Separate from Pennsylvania.** National Registry recertification has its own dates, fees and records. Your PA EMS Registry record does not update it, and it does not update your PA record.
- **Two paths.** Complete continuing education under the National Continued Competency Program (NCCP), or pass Recertification by Examination (RBE). This guide covers the continuing education path.
- **Two-year cycle.** EMT, AEMT and Paramedic certifications expire March 31. EMR certifications expire September 30. Your National Registry date may be different from your state date.
- **Who can recertify.** You need a current, unexpired National Registry certification and a full, unrestricted license (or eligibility for one) to practice, and you must finish before your expiration date.
- **Apply online.** Online applications take about five business days to process. Mailed applications are by request only and can take up to eight weeks.

Hours required (continuing education path)

Level	Total hours	National (50%)	State / local (25%)	Individual (25%)
EMT	40	20	10	10
AEMT	50	25	12.5	12.5
Paramedic	60	30	15	15

EMR hours are listed on the National Registry EMR recertification page (nremt.org/EMR/Recertification).

- **National component.** Required topics set by the National Registry: airway, respiration and ventilation; cardiology; trauma; medical; and operations.
- **State / local component.** Set by your state EMS office, agency or medical director. If none is established, any direct patient-care EMS education counts.
- **Individual component.** Any accepted EMS-related education.
- **Rules for every hour.** Education must be dated within your cycle and before your expiration date, at or above your certification level, and each class can be used only once.

Unofficial guide by Life Safety Leaders, based on public Pennsylvania Department of Health and National Registry sources (checked October 2026). Requirements change: always confirm with the official source before you submit.

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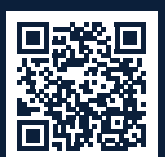
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What counts and what does not

Accepted education

- **State-approved or CAPCE-accredited courses.** Education approved by a U.S. state EMS office, accredited by CAPCE (capce.org), or covered by National Registry policy.
- **Standardized courses.** CPR, ACLS, PALS and similar cards count, up to the maximum credits the National Registry sets for each course. You cannot claim more than that maximum.
- **College courses.** Accredited courses that relate to your EMS role. Courses earned after April 1, 2023 count 10 credits per course hour. They are not accepted in the national component.
- **EMS programs and teaching.** Initial EMS program education and instructing an EMS course count one credit per hour.
- **Refresher courses.** At your current certification level, taken during your cycle.

Not accepted

- Duty or volunteer time, clinical rotations that are not part of an EMS program, and serving as a skills examiner, patient or proctor.
- Instructor-methodology, management or leadership, and preceptor courses.
- Duplicate courses in the same cycle, and general college courses (algebra, chemistry, psychology and the like) that do not apply directly to patient care.

Key dates (EMT, AEMT and Paramedic)

Date	What happens
October 1	Six months before expiration: applications for recertification by continuing education open.
March 25	Last day to apply for Recertification by Examination (RBE), so there is time to schedule and take the exam.
March 31	Expiration. Last day to submit a continuing education application without the reinstatement fee.
April 1 - 30	Reinstatement period. Submit your application plus a \$50 reinstatement fee on top of the regular fee. CE dated in this period is not accepted, and acceptance is not guaranteed.
May 1	Lapse. National certification must be regained.

EMRs follow the same pattern six months earlier: applications open April 1, the deadline is September 30, reinstatement runs October 1 - 31, and lapse is November 1.

Submit early

With rolling recertification your expiration date does not change if you renew early, and your new cycle starts the day after your application is approved. Enter your education as you finish it instead of waiting until the last minute.

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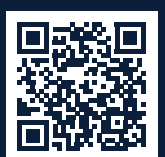
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Need more time?

The National Registry can consider extensions for qualifying events, such as overseas military deployment or a serious incapacitating medical event. You must apply before your expiration date: email support@nremt.org with supporting documentation.

How to apply, step by step

1 Sign in

Go to nremt.org/login and open your My Certification role.

2 Update your profile

Check your name, address and email.

3 Manage your affiliations

For Active status, make sure your agency affiliation is correct. Remove outdated agencies and follow up on pending requests. If you are not affiliated with an agency, renew as Inactive.

4 Add your education

Have scanned or digital copies ready. Check for education your Training Officer already entered, use the CAPCE Import function for CAPCE courses, and add every course to your transcript.

5 Complete the Recertification Application and pay

Find it under My Certification. After payment the application should submit by itself. If it does not, common causes are an uncleared legal pathway, duplicate courses, or courses dated in the future. Fix the problem and click Submit.

6 Watch your status

Education showing 100 percent complete does not guarantee acceptance, because National Registry staff make the final decision. Your recertification is done when a new expiration date appears.

7 Check messages

Watch the Message Center on your dashboard and your email for returned applications, audit notices, and pending Training Officer or Medical Director verification.

Proof of education and audits

Applications are randomly selected for audit. If yours is, you must provide documentation for every course on it before your expiration date. Keep proof of all education for five years.

- **Accepted proof:** certificates of course completion; copies of standardized course cards; a roster on the training organization letterhead signed by the Training Officer; data imported into your National Registry transcript from an approved source; an official transcript from an accredited school or state-approved EMS program; or a completion report downloaded directly from the education provider (a written letter of completion is not accepted).
- **Every document must show:** your name; the date you completed the course; the credits or hours awarded; the course name or topic; the name of the training provider; and who approved the course (CAPCE, a state EMS office, an academic institution or National Registry policy).
- **Audit options.** If you are audited within your cycle you may take the RBE exam instead of submitting documents (one attempt; a fail means you lapse on your expiration date). If you are audited during the reinstatement period you must submit documents, due May 31 (EMT, AEMT, Paramedic) or November 30 (EMR).

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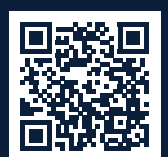
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- **Audits for cause.** You have 30 days to respond and cannot use the exam option.
- **Fees.** Recertification and RBE application fees are nonrefundable.

Pennsylvania records are separate

A class may count for the National Registry, for Pennsylvania, for both or for neither, depending on its approval. Check the approval listed for each class and enter it in every system you maintain. Our Pennsylvania guide covers the PA EMS Registry.

Official National Registry links

- **Recertification Guide:** nremt.org/Handbooks/Recertification
- **Keep your certification, by level:** nremt.org/Pages/National-Registry-Recertification
- **Sign in:** nremt.org/login
- **Important dates and time periods:** nremt.org/Handbooks/Recertification/Important-Dates-Time-Periods
- **Help center and FAQs:** nremt2.my.site.com/nremthelpcenter/s/
- **Support:** support@nremt.org (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern, Monday to Friday)
- **Find CAPCE courses:** capce.org
- **State EMS offices:** nremt.org/resources/state-ems-offices
- **Need CE hours?** lifesafetyleaders.com/classes

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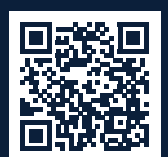
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