

July 19, 2011

**Background:** The Texas Legislature gives the department the authority to adopt rules setting minimal standards for interstate reciprocity. There are concerns that the language in subsection (1) of the current reciprocity rule, at Title 25 of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Section 157.33 (i), does not require an interstate reciprocity applicant to hold a valid and current emergency medical services (EMS) personnel certification issued by another state in order to be eligible to receive an equivalent Texas EMS personnel certification via reciprocity; and that the organization, National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, is not a state of the United States.

**Statue Referenced:** Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 773.050

- (c) The executive commissioner shall consider the education, training, criminal background, and experience of allied health professionals in adopting the minimum standards for emergency medical services personnel certification and may establish criteria for interstate reciprocity of emergency medical services personnel.

**Rules Referenced:**

Texas Administrative Code Section 157.02 Definitions

(60) Reciprocity - The recognition of certification or privileges granted to an individual from another state.

Texas Administrative Code Section 157.33 Reciprocity

(i) Reciprocity.

(1) A person who is currently certified by the National Registry but did not complete a department-approved course may apply for the equal or lower level Texas certification by submitting a reciprocity application and a non-refundable fee of \$120.

**Policy:** Effective on the signature date of this policy and until this policy is rescinded or this policy is adopted into rule, all interstate reciprocity applicants must hold a valid and current EMS personnel certification issued by another state or U.S. Territory. Persons successfully completing EMS training through and holding valid current EMS personnel credentials from one of the four branches of the United States military or United States Coast Guard and having a current National Registry certification are eligible for Texas EMS personnel certification through reciprocity.



Kathryn C. Perkins, RN, MBA

Assistant Commissioner

Signature date: July 19, 2011