



POSITION STATEMENT

Changes and Additions to ND DEMS Administrative Rules, 2005

Overall, the North Dakota EMS Association (NDEMSEA) supports the changes and additions to Administrative Rules of the Department of Health, Division of Emergency Medical Services (DEMS), which relate to licensing of ground ambulance services and critical care air ambulance services, licensing of emergency medical services personnel, and the optional licensing of EMS training institutions.

NDEMSEA has been actively involved in the rules drafting process by means of representation on the DEMS EMS Advisory Council and other meetings with DEMS and members of our Instructor/Coordinator Society and Board of Directors.

The Administrative Rules under consideration are 33-11-01 through 33-11-07, and 33-36-01 & 02. Below is a brief description of each, which outlines the key points.

33-11-01 North Dakota Ground Ambulance Services

The majority of changes to this section concern cleaning up language. A key insertion is to allow ground ambulance services to substitute being “accredited” as evidence the service meets state licensure requirements. Another insertion requires ground ambulance units to be vehicles which have been manufactured to be an ambulance. NDEMSEA supports both of these points.

33-11-02 Basic Life Support Ground Ambulance License

Key points of this section have an effect on minimum equipment requirements; among others. Ambulances must be now equipped with a seated spinal immobilization device, which includes KED or a short board, or any other device that immobilizes a patient while they are seated, and 25 All Hazards Triage Tags. NDEMSEA is presently assembling Disaster Management Bags which contain the appropriate Triage Tags, and we will distribute these items to all squads in the state in the near future. Squads are encouraged not to purchase triage tags because NDEMSEA will provide them to squads in conjunction with the DoH and NDEMSEA’s participation in the HRSA grant.

Another key point of this section is the addition of language which formally allows a BLS service to provide ALS support interventions provided the primary care provider is licensed to provide at that level of care, and there is proper medical direction and equipment for the ALS intervention.

33-11-03 Advanced Life Support Ground Ambulance License

Among other verbiage changes, the additions to this section formally allow ALS services’ “second call” ambulances to be staffed and equipped at the BLS level.

33-11-04 North Dakota Air Ambulance Services

The majority of the language changes in this section deal with necessary inclusions as a result of adding section 33-11-07 regarding Critical Care Air Ambulances. Some of the other changes substitute accreditation as evidence the air ambulance service meets the licensure requirements of the section.

33-11-05 & 06 BLS & ALS Air Ambulance Licenses

There are few changes in these sections. In addition to some language changes, the section provides that a BLS Air Ambulance service cannot advertise itself as an ALS Air Ambulance service.

33-11-07 Critical Care Air Ambulance License

This is a new section to provide licensing standards for this level of care. Previous rules did not allow for the Critical Care level of service.

33-36-01 EMS Personnel Training, Testing, and Licensure

This section of rules has a significant number of complex changes. It is not the intent of this document to speak to all of the changes. Readers of this document are encouraged to download the complete section(s) to formulate their knowledge of the changes at the following website:

<http://www.health.state.nd.us/ndhd/resource/dehs/dehsrsl.shtml> .

The most important points of this section's changes are:

- Changes references to “certification” for EMT’s to “license.”
- It states that primary instructors (ND licensed I/C’s) must teach a minimum of 50% of the lecture portion of courses.
- Changes license expiration dates to 90 days following an individual’s national registry expiration date.
- Regarding initial certification at all levels, it extends the period of time from March 31st to June 30 of the second year following successful completion of the testing process.
- Establishes a 90 day “Limited” temporary license for individuals who have graduated from an authorized EMS training course, and while they are awaiting the results of their national registry examination. This limited license is only issued if the application is signed by a physician and it allows practice only under the direct supervision of a fully licensed EMT who is trained at or above the level of the limited licensee. This allows for an individual to be employed, practicing EMS, and keeping their skills sharp during what may be an extended period of time for the national registry to process certification paperwork.
- Sets forth language for licensure waivers for licensed providers who through no fault of their own have difficulty in the re-certification process with the national registry and for providers who were current in their certification and then were called to active duty in the military.

33.36.02 Licensing of EMS Training Institutions

This is a new section of rules which sets forth requirements for the **optional** licensing of EMS training institutions. Readers are again encouraged to download the complete section of rules from the DEMS website to formulate their knowledge. In narrative form, this section is intended to establish criteria for businesses or individuals who train others in the EMS field. Because this license is optional, it is not intended to alter or disrupt those businesses or individuals who do not wish to apply for the license. Essentially, it establishes a formal threshold or level of conduct and service which thereby offers certain benefits to the training institution and its students.

For example, a licensed training institution can put on its own test site; after following certain guidelines. This means that all test sites do not have to be in Bismarck. This is especially helpful for a student who may need only to re-test certain stations. Rather than to wait until the next scheduled Bismarck test site, there may be another test site at a licensed training institution at an earlier date. Additionally, licensed training institutions will benefit from somewhat relaxed course approval requirements.

Hearing Date: As mentioned in and on our website, (www.ndemsa.org), the public hearing and comment date is October 3rd at 1:15pm in Room in Room 212, of the Judicial Wing, Bismarck.